SOCIALIST CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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1. [illegible] LAND AND THE PEOPLE

The Territory

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (ČSSR) is situated in the centre of Europe, in the mild northern hemispheric zone, and has an area of 127,877 square kilometres. It consists of two socialist federative republics, the Czech Socialist Republic (ČSR), which has an area of 78,863 square kilometres, and the Slovak Socialist Republic (SSR) with 49,014 square kilometres. Its territory takes up 0.08 per cent of the Earth's land area. The transport disadvantages that Czechoslovakia experiences as a landlocked country are offset by its river connections with the North, the Baltic and the Black Seas.

The State extends in a roughly east-west direction, and the length of the country's frontier is 3,472 kilometres. The longest stretch of frontier is the common border with Poland, followed by the borders with Hungary, Austria, the GDR, the FRG and the Soviet Union, in that order. It is 767 kilometres in a straight line between the westernmost and the easternmost points of the country, and 468 kilometres between the northernmost and the southernmost points. The geographical centre of Czechoslovakia lies 477 kilometres from the Adriatic Sea and 541 kilometres from Szczecin Bay in the Baltic Sea. The position of Czechoslovakia in Europe and the shape of its territory are favourable for foreign trade and transit transport. Czechoslovakia is the crossroads of Europe, its air routes and road systems linking the various parts of the continent.

The Demographic Background

The make-up and the distribution of the Czechoslovak population today is the result of a long development. The favourable geographical position and suitable natural conditions have made settlement of the territory possible since time immemorial.

At present, Czechoslovakia has a total population of 14,686,225 (July 1,1974); nearly one-third of the people live in the Slovak Socialist Republic (4,691,069). The geographic distribution of the population is not even. The most densely populated areas are the industrial districts around Ostrava, the foothills of the Ore Mountains, central Bohemia, Brno and its environs and the Váh valley. The least populated areas lie in the border regions of southern and western Bohemia, the eastern part of Slovakia and the mountain regions.

An overwhelming majority of the population are Czechs and Slovaks: they account for 94.3 per cent of the country's population (1973), of which Czechs total 64.5 per cent and Slovaks 29.8 per cent. The largest national minority are the Hungarians (4 per cent), who live in a continuous stretch of land along the southern border of Slovakia. There are smaller numbers of Germans scattered in the border regions of western and northern Bohemia. The Poles live mostly around Těšín (northern Moravia), and the Ukrainians in north-eastern Slovakia.

Half of the population is employed in the national economy, 47 per cent of this number being women. Most of the working population consists of workers and employees (88.3 per cent in 1973), while cooperative farmers together with other cooperative producers total 10.6 per cent. Only 1.1 per cent are private farmers and self-employed persons. The largest single group of working people (48 per cent) is found in industry and construction; agriculture and forestry account for 14 per cent. The number of those working in the service industry is still relatively low.

There are slightly more women than men among the population: the ratio is 1,053 women to 1,000 men. The average life expectancy of men

is 66.8, and of women 73.6. Czechoslovakia has one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world (21.2, up to the age of one year, per 1,000 live births). As a result of the State's policy of encouraging population growth, there has been a steady rise in the rate of natural population increase in recent years. In 1973 the birth rate was 18.8 per mille, and the mortality rate 11.5 per mille; hence the natural population increase amounted to 7.3 per mille.

At the time of the last census in 1970, there were 10,608 communities in Czechoslovakia, mostly small places with fewer than 5,000 people (52.6 per cent). Altogether 15.8 per cent of the population lived in large cities with a population of more than 100,000.

The Physical Background

Czechoslovakia is divided into five main orographical regions, three of which — the Bohemian Massif in the west and the younger formations of the Carpathian system (the Western and Eastern Carpathians) in the east—cover most of the territory. Different geological development and different ages have left a strong imprint on the appearance of the two systems. The older Bohemian Massif is largely formed of hills and low rounded mountains. The younger arc of the Carpathians is characterized by steep rugged slopes and deep valleys; the highest ranges are of alpine size, with typical mountain peaks.

The most extensive formation in the Bohemian Massif is the gently rolling Bohemian-Moravian Highlands (Českomoravská vrchovina), which has no great differences of altitude (highest point, Javořice, 837 m). In southern Bohemia there is the Šumava mountain range, with its deep virgin forests, rare species of vegetation dating from the Ice Ages, and beautiful lakes of glacial origin. The highest point on the Czech side of the Šumava Mountains is Plechý (1,378 m). The Ore Mountains (Krušné hory) in northwestern Bohemia are part of a tilted block, the surface being formed by a peneplain with higher mountains rising steeply above the gently undulating ground (highest point, Klínovec, 1,244 m). The concentration of industry around the Ore Mountains has an adverse effect on the natural beauty of the area. The highest mountain range in the Czech Socialist Republic are the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše) — (highest point, Sněžka, 1,602 m.). A wide variety of rare flora and fauna is found here, and the countryside, shaped in the Ice Ages by glaciers, is famed for its beauty. The Eagle Mountains (Orlické hory) are lower (highest point, Velká Deštná, 1,115 m) and continue into the group of mountains around Králický Sněžník (1,424 m), an important watrsshed of three seas. The Hrubý Jeseník range (highest point, Praděd, 1,492 m), with its deep forests, an abundance of game and rare flora, and well-known spas, is a favourite with tourists.

The westernmost mountain range of the Carpathians is the Moravian-Silesian Beskyds (highest point, Lysá hora, 1,323 m). The central part of northern Slovakia is crowned by Czechoslovakia's alpine mountain range, the High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry), which reach a height of 2,655 metres above sea level (Gerlach). Their sheer, jagged peaks, deep valleys and numerous lakes were formed during the Ice Ages. Beyond the tree-line there is a well-developed zone of alpine vegetation extending to an altitude of about 2,000 metres above sea-level. The Western and the Belan Tatras, to the west and east of the High Tatras, reach altitudes of over 2,000 metres. The Malá Fatra mountain range (highest point, Veľký Kriváň, 1,709 m) has a lovely gorge called Vrátna dolina. The Greater Fatra (Veľká Fatra) mountain range, though more extensive, is somewhat lower (highest point, Ostredok, 1,592 m). The massive Low Tatra range (Nízké Tatry) has a central ridge more than 80 kilometres long which is mostly bare; it offers a magnificent view of the surrounding valleys and the forest-clad slopes. Stretching south of the Low Tatras are the extensive Slovak Ore Mountains (Slovenské rudohorie), a range rich in mineral resources and noted for its beautiful scenery.

During the Tertiary there was much volcanic activity in the Bohemian Massif; this was when the conical and mound-like mountains of the Bohemian Highlands and the massive Doupovské Hory range were formed. The volcanic mountain ranges of the Carpathian System include the Vtáčnik, Kremnické Vrchy, Štiavnicke Vrchy, Polana, Javorie, Slanské Vrchy and Vihorlat mountains.

The slopes of some of the mountain ranges, composed of rocks with many fractures and fissures, have eroded through the ages into unusual shapes; these are known as "rock towns". The best known are the Děčínské Stěny, Prachov, Adršpach and Teplice rock formations in Bohemia and the Súľov rock formation in Slovakia.

In general, the Czechoslovak climate is determined by the country's geographical position and is marked by the regular cycle of the four seasons, with an intermixture of maritime and continental climatic influences. The western part of the country tends to have a greater maritime influence, while in the east the continental type of climate predominates, with greater daily and yearly differences of temperature. Prague has an average temperature of 9.4 °C., Brno 8.6 °C., and Bratislava 9.9 °C. The terrain and the degree of exposure to winds play a considerable role in shaping the local climate.

Precipitation ranges between 450 and 2,000 millimetres annually; 20 per cent of this falls in the form of snow. The greatest precipitation occurs on the windward slopes of high mountain ranges, while areas protected from the wind by the mountains have the lowest rainfall.

Many rivers have their source in Czechoslovakia. Atmospheric precipitation accounts for most of the water. The country's rivers empty into three seas: the Black Sea, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. Czechoslovakia's largest river is the Danube, which forms part of the southern border; at Štúrovo, its average rate of flow is 2,315 cubic metres a second. The second largest river is the Labe (Elbe) — 308 cubic metres a second at the point where it leaves Czechoslovak territory. The main tributary of the Labe is the Vltava, the longest river in Czechoslovakia (433 kilometres). Many large dams have been built on Czechoslovak rivers in the past decades, especially on the Vltava and the Váh; they play an important role in water conservancy, and many of them are used for generating electric power. The water of some 1,000 springs issuing on Czechoslovak territory is used for curative purposes or as mineral water. Some of these springs have remarkable properties and have given rise to many world-famous spas.

There has long been a tradition of protecting the country's natural heritage in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The oldest royal decrees for the protection of royal forests and the game living in them date from the 15th and 16th centuries, while several nature reserves were established in the middle of the 19th century. Today, the most stringently protected areas are national parks, such as those in the Giant Mountains, the High and Low Tatras and the Pieniny Mountains. The most frequently found type of protected territory is the State nature reserve, of which there are more than 600 in Czechoslovakia.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE PAST

The history of Czechoslovakia has reflected all the historical changes, all the conflicts of European development, as well as all the ideas that were born in Europe. The history of Czechoslovakia has been and remains today a part of the history of Europe, of the history of all mankind. However, the Czech lands and Slovakia were not only a crossroads where nations, views and interests met and clashed, but also the place that gave birth to the first mass revolutionary movement to herald the dawn of modern times and the eclipse of the Middle Ages — the Hussite revolutionary movement. Later, the Czech Reformation gave mankind the brilliant pedagogue Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius). His deeply humanistic concept of the education of man as a fully equal member of a free society is being applied by the Czechoslovak working people today. They are building a socialist society free of the exploitation of man by man, where the welfare of every citizen is the object of the whole revolutionary effort.

The most ancient settlements on the territory of present-day Czechoslovakia are estimated to be about a quarter of a million years old. The famous Věstonice Venus testifies to the high level of civilization attained in the Paleolithic Age, though a more permanent settlement of the territory did not take place until the third millenium B. C., in the Neolithic Age. At that time, agricultural peoples settled in what are now the Czech lands and Slovakia and began cultivating the soil, leaving behind them traces of a considerable number of settlements. Following the Neolithic peoples, various tribes came to live on the territory of today's Czechoslovakia; very little has been learned about them. The Celts emerged in Central Europe about 500 B. C., and for some time ruled a part of modern Czechoslovakia. They built several large oppida in Bohemia and left behind craft traditions and several place-names. Bohemia —Boiohaemum—derives its name from one of the Celtic tribes, the Boii. At the beginning of the Christian era, the Celts were pushed out by Germanic tribes. The legend of the Marobud Empire, which undoubtedly extended to the Czech lands, dates from their days. The rule of the Germanic tribes ended in the period of the migration of nations in the fourth and fifth centuries. Their departure marks the end of the prehistoric era in the Czech lands and Slovakia.

The historical period of Czechoslovak history began with the arrival of the Slavs in the fifth and sixth centuries. Slavonic tribes settled the Czech lands and Slovakia relatively quickly, and the settlements came to be densely and permanently populated. The tribes left a strong mark on the territory where they settled, cultivating the land and developing their own culture.

As early as the beginning of the 7th century, the Slavs created their first tribal union — in the Danube valley — as a protection against the Avars. It is believed that the State of the Moravians that developed at the beginning of the 9th century was a continuation of this first Slavonic State. The Great Moravian Empire gradually expanded to include Moravia, Bohemia, Slovakia, Silesia, part of Poland and western Hungary. It was an early feudal State, highly civilized and culturally advanced, and it maintained political, economic and cultural contacts with all of Europe. The ruling strata became Christians. The spread of Christianity was largely due to the Slavonic missionaries Constantine (Cyril) and Methodius, who came to Moravia in 863. The Great Moravian Empire was an important challenge to the expansionist ambitions of the East Frankish Empire. However, it disintegrated at the beginning of the 10th century under the impact of the Hungarian incursions; this marked the beginning of the gradual separation of the Czech and the Slovak nations, a process that was to last for almost

a thousand years. The Slovak nation was soon brought under the supremacy of the Hungarian State, while the Czech nation gradually created its own State.

Around the beginning of the 10th century, the Přemyslid dynasty, who ruled over one of the Czech tribes, began to expand their domains, first to other regions of Bohemia and later to Moravia as well. Thus a new State — the early feudal Czech State — was created. Its rulers soon became Christians and the Czech lands were brought into the sphere of influence of the Roman Church. The Přemyslids soon strengthened the power of their principality and later their royal power and the feudal State organization. They skilfully managed to withstand pressures coming from the German Emperors, and made Bohemia the equal of the other feudal States of Europe. In the 11th century they began expanding their power to the east, and by the latter part of the 13th century they had extended the frontiers of the Czech State, though only for a short time, to the Adriatic Sea. They acquired the Polish crown and endeavoured to obtain the Hungarian crown as well. In the 12th and 13th centuries, the strong Přemyslid Czech State was able to block the expansion of the Holy Roman Empire of the Germans to the east and played an important role in the power struggle in Central Europe.

The Czech State owed much of its rising authority to the considerable development of the forces of production and the strengthening of feudal relations. The division of labour between the crafts and agriculture, which was strongly helped, especially from the middle of the 12th century, by colonization from abroad, stimulated both trading and farming. At the beginning of the 13th century the development of mining, especially silver mining, led to a more rapid economic development of the Czech lands and to greater prosperity for the towns. The Prague groschen came to dominate the Central European market. The

Czech lands were among the most advanced in Europe, with a highly developed feudal society and a rich Romanesque culture. The first literature dates from this period — for example, the Chronicle of Cosmas (1119—1125).

A similar economic expansion, combined with a strengthening of feudal social relations, took place in 13th century Slovakia, which was part of the Hungarian State at that time, and here, too, this was stimulated by the development of mining towns.

However, the colonization and the development of the towns, the prosperity of the Přemyslid court and the strengthening of the Church organization all brought to the Czech lands, and to a certain extent to Slovakia as well, many immigrants, especially Germans. The roots of the later Czech-German nationality problem can be traced to this period.

After the Přemyslid dynasty died out, the Czech throne passed to the House of Luxembourg (1310), who made the Czech lands the basis for their family holdings and a springboard to power in the Holy Roman Empire of the Germans. Through a skilful dynastic policy, John of Luxembourg ensured for his son, Charles IV, the title of Holy Roman Emperor (1355). Charles IV (1316—1378) took advantage of his country's economic prosperity to pursue an ambitious policy that led to the further expansion of the Czech State. He temporarily combined the power of Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia. The political power of the Kingdom of Bohemia was based on economic prosperity and was accompanied by a considerable cultural blossoming. In 1344, the Prague Bishopric was raised to an independent Archbishopric and in 1348 the first university in Central Europe — which is known today as Charles University — was founded in Prague. Czech Gothic art reached its culmination in this period. The Czech lands had extensive contacts with the centres of European trade and culture.

However, the impressive economic and cultural rise of the Kingdom of Bohemia concealed many contradictions, since it helped strengthen the influence of the Church, with all the negative features that this entailed.

Slovakia's economic expansion was based on the new development of mining and trade: Slovak mining towns became important trade and craft centres, and contacts between Hungary and Italy became especially close.

Under Wenceslas IV (1361—1419), the royal authority declined sharply and the political importance of the Bohemian State dwindled. There were increasing signs of economic depression, divisions within the ruling feudal class became more marked, the gap between the rich and poor in the towns widened, agriculture was beset with growing problems and criticism of the growing power of the Church and its corruption was rampant. By the end of the 14th century, the class contradictions had become so pronounced that a definite social crisis developed. Criticism of the situation, originally directed against the Church and its power, turned into a widely-based reform movement. Scholars at Charles University in Prague helped spread the movement among the nobles and burghers, and in the form of popular heresy it affected the broad masses of serfs. The leader of the reform movement was Jan (John) Hus (born 1371). His preaching and his writings met with a wide response. In 1415 the Catholic Church tried to halt the reform movement by condemning him as a heretic and burning him at the stake in Constance, but this only acted as a stimulus to the reform movement. It soon grew into a revolution headed by the Prague poor under the leadership of Jan Želivský.

The Hussite revolutionary movement, whose members called for Holy Communion to be taken in both kinds and chose the chalice as their symbol, seized control throughout the Czech lands. It was not only a revolt against the all-powerful Roman

Catholic Church and its dogmas, but also a revolutionary democratic revolt against the feudal social order. The communism practised by the Hussites especially in the newly-founded town of Tábor, where all property was communal, heralded a new social era, and marked the appearance of the ideas that the Utopian socialists were later to expound. The extensive revolutionary movement (1419—1434) also produced some remarkable strategists, such as Jan Žižka of Trocnov and Prokop Holý, and Hussite military tactics gradually spread to the whole of Europe.

The Hussite revolution gave the country a new political power base: the leading role was played by the union of the cities. Through its diplomatic skill and military achievements, the Hussite movement managed to defeat the advance of European reaction and repel the attacks of the crusaders headed by the emperor Sigismund. The Hussites opened the era of the Reformation in Europe by weakening the temporal power of the Pope to such an extent that the Papal Curia was never able to regain its all-powerful political position. In the Czech lands, the Church lost most of its property and with it its political power.

The Hussite revolutionary movement was defeated in the battle of Lipany (1434) by an opposition coalition of Czech nobles and burghers. Some of the Hussite troops then moved to Slovakia where, under the command of Jan Jiskra of Brandýs, they controlled the greater part of Slovak territory for some time. The Hussite wars and their aftermath led to a polarization of the Estates in the Czech lands.

The authority of the King was not re-established until the rule of George of Poděbrady in the latter half of the 15th century. George of Poděbrady was not only a skilful diplomat, but also a man who anticipated the historical importance of efforts to achieve peace among States. His proposal for the creation of a union of States to preserve the peace and prevent further conflicts in Europe

anticipated the course of history by several centuries.

After the death of George of Poděbrady (1471), the Czech lands passed into the hands of the House of Jagellon. However, the Jagellonians found a formidable opponent in the Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus, who expanded his kingdom at the expense of the Czech State. In 1491, Ladislas (Vladislav) Jagellon became King of Hungary and the Czech and Hungarian States were merged in a personal union. But this did not lead to any strengthening of royal power, for in Bohemia as well as in Hungary the power of the nobility was becoming so great that the king's authority was weakened even in international relations. With the growth of its power, the nobility in the Czech lands and in Slovakia extended the various forms of feudal oppression of the serfs and strove to weaken the position of the towns. This selfish policy also prevented a concentration of forces against the Turks, who had become a permanent threat to the whole of Central Europe at the beginning of the 16th century.

Under George of Poděbrady and the Jagellon dynasty, the royal court in Prague once again became an important centre of power and diplomacy: Czech was even one of the diplomatic languages in Central Europe during this period. In architecture, the lingering influence of Vladislav Gothic was still being felt in the Czech lands and Slovakia, while literature was beginning to be affected by humanism.

However, the German Reformation and the Hapsburg Counter-Reformation led to the development of an entirely new situation in Central Europe. On the one hand, the Estates in the various lands of the Kingdom of Bohemia were preparing conditions for the emergence of new social relations while, on the other, the attempts of the Hapsburgs to create a vast empire and the irruption of the Turks into the Danube regions paved the way for a concentration of military and political forces in that part of Europe. The election of the new Czech king in 1526 was a complicated affair of international and power politics since it took the form of a confrontation between all the main power groups which, as had been also shown by later developments, were among the factors determining for many decades the history of central and south-eastern Europe.

In 1526 Ferdinand I of Hapsburg succeeded to the Czech and the Hungarian thrones. Under his rule, a great new union of States emerged in Central Europe, comprising the Kingdoms of Bohemia and Hungary and the Austrian lands. This marked the emergence of the multi-national Hapsburg monarchy, which was to rule over so many nations and nationalities in central and south-eastern Europe for nearly 400 years. The election of a Hapsburg to the Czech and the Hungarian thrones was intended to weaken the royal power and enable the nobility to retain its decisive influence. What happened, however, was that a new historical tendency developed which the Hapsburgs later endeavoured to make full use of for creating a centralized monarchy. The prerequisite of this was, however, a victory of the Catholic Church over the Reformation.

After the succession of Ferdinand I to the throne, the independence of the original States within the monarchy was at first respected. Later, however, the contradictions between the centralizing interests of the royal power and the interests of the individual States, represented by their Estates, gradually came to a head and resulted in a serious political conflict which led, at the end of the 16th century, to an ever greater emphasis on the Hapsburgs' anti-Reformation policy. The conflict developed into the first profound crisis of the monarchy, which climaxed in the revolts of the Estates. The most important revolt of the Czech Estates, which had international political consequences, broke out in 1618. It ended in 1620 with the defeat of the Czech Estates, but this led in turn to the Thirty Years' War, which had a profound effect on the economic, social and cultural life of Central Europe.

The defeat of the revolt provided the Hapsburgs with the opportunity to destroy the political power of the Czech Estates. They embarked on a re-Catholization of the Czech lands and introduced centralized forms of government. Those who had taken part in the revolt were ruthlessly persecuted, all their property was confiscated and many of them were executed. Thousands of Protestant families of all social classes and strata left the Czech lands. The Czech Brethren, led by Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius, 1592—1670), represented the flower of Czech national culture and literature, and the exodus of their many members, especially the intelligentsia, was a heavy blow to the development of Czech culture and the Czech language. For decades the Kralice Bible of the Czech Brethren (published in six volumes in 1579 — 1594) remained the model for literary Czech. The property and the political position of the Czech Protestant nobility and Czech burghers were taken over by various foreigners, mostly Germans, who were invited to the Czech lands by the Hapsburgs. The re-Catholization of the Czech lands thus substantially strengthened the position of the German population in these lands, and marked the beginning of the forcible Germanization of the whole territory.

The crushing of the nobility, the forcible re-Catholization of the Czech lands and the aftermath of the Thirty Years' War resulted at first in a substantial slowing down of economic and social development and a marked weakening of the pre-capitalist economic elements. At the same time, the extensive social transformations led to an increase in feudal servitude and a return to agrarian life in the Czech lands. An excessive amount of unpaid labour — corvée — was exacted from the serfs by the manorial lords, and the village people, deprived of all civil rights, were fully at the mercy of the feudal authorities. This also explains the continual decline in their standard of farming and the steady deterioration in the status of the rural inhabitants up to the middle of the 18th century. The transfer of the royal seat from Prague to Vienna demonstrated that the economically backward Alpine countries had become the Hapsburg power-base and marked a clear victory for the conservative economic policy of the landed gentry and the Church's power policy which led ultimately towards the establishment of a centralized absolute monarchy.

In Slovakia, which remained a part of the Hungarian State, the centralizing pressures and re-Catholization of the country were much less in evidence. This resulted from a number of anti-Hapsburg revolts led by the Hungarian nobility as well as from the growing pressure of Turkish aggression. However, feudal relations and the exploitation of the serfs became more pronounced in this territory as well.

The economic plight of the multi-national Hapsburg monarchy worsened at the turn of the 18th century. The wars with Turkey and the luckless Hapsburg policy in Italy and within the German Empire sapped the Czech lands. Economic weakness was also the main reason for the failure of the Hapsburg dynasty to overcome the political fragmentation, the disunity of the nationalities and the conflicting interests within the monarchy. Not even the enlightened reforms of Maria Theresia and Joseph II in the latter half of the 18th century led to any basic change. In the Czech lands these reforms removed the last formal vestiges of the State's formal independence and led to a policy of systematic Germanization designed to create the necessary conditions for a united monarchy. But though the efforts to create an absolute monarchy failed, largely owing to the resistance of the Hungarian nobility and the constant pressure from the Turks along the Danube, the ideological supremacy of the Church was eliminated, new foundations were laid for secular education, a unified Army was created and serfdom was abolished.

In the Hapsburg monarchy, as elsewhere in the world, manufactories began to emerge, trade in agricultural produce was stepped up and the first stages of capital accumulation appeared. The transformation of the burghers into the bourgeoisie led to their claiming political rights. In the 1830's and 1840's the pace of the industrial revolution quickened and the beginnings of industrialization in the Czech lands marked the end of feudalism.

In the Czech lands and Slovakia at the end of the 18th century, the disintegration of the feudal society, the transformation of the burghers into the bourgeoisie and the intensified Germanization all helped, as elsewhere in Europe, to arouse patriotic sentiments and led to attempts to revive the Czech and the Slovak nations and their national cultures. The first stage was marked by the efforts of the educated strata to revive literary Czech and make use of it in literature and science. Josef Dobrovský (1753—1829) laid the foundations of Czech history and linguistics, the Slovak writer Ján Kollár (1793—1852) formulated the idea of the need for mutual understanding and awareness among the Slavonic peoples and Ignác Antonín Born carried out research in natural sciences. From these beginnings there sprang up the Czech mass-based national movement, which gave rise to new Czech literature and Czech art in the first half of the 19th century. A new Czech society was emerging, and its representatives were already promoting an independent political programme in the 1840's.

In Slovakia, too, a process of national revival was taking place at the turn of the 19th century. The Slovak national movement, led by Antonín Bernolák (1762—1813) and Ľudovít Štúr (1815 — 1856) was creating conditions for the establishment of literary Slovak.

The bourgeois revolution in 1848 and 1849 which shook the Hapsburg monarchy to its core and destroyed for ever the Hapsburg dream of a centralized absolute monarchy, presented the Czech bourgeoisie with the opportunity to speak out and proclaim its political programme. This programme, as expressed by František Palacký (1798—1876), stressed support for the Hapsburg monarchy and opposition to the German revolution, and called for federalization for the nations and nationalities living within the Empire and equal rights for them all. In practice, it marked the beginning of cooperation with the bourgeoisie of the other Slavonic nations and nationalities within the monarchy. This Austro-Slavonic policy, which soon proved to have no long—range perspective, formed the basis for the policy of the Czech bourgeoisie until virtually the First World War.

Although the revolutionary movement itself was defeated, the bourgeois revolution of 1848 and 1849 and its aftermath created conditions that favoured the development of capitalism in the monarchy. In the 1870's the industrial revolution reached its climax and the 1880's marked the end of the first stage of industrialization in the Czech lands. The industrialization of Slovakia was delayed and did not reach its peak until the turn of the 20th century. In the Czech lands, market agriculture was developing rapidly and extensive revolutionary transformations took place in the structure of agricultural production. The Czech lands were among the most economically advanced regions of the Hapsburg monarchy.

However, the political position of the Czech nation within the monarchy did not reflect the country's economic strength. The State structure and the political system through which the modern Czech nation was striving to assert itself and attain equality were determined by forces outside the nation itself. The direct influence of the Czech bourgeoisie on the domestic and foreign policy of the monarchy was negligible. The Czech bourgeois politicians had very little say in the course of affairs.

The proclamation of the Austro-Hungarian Dualism in 1867, which deeply influenced the whole development of political life inside the monarchy until the end of its existence, led to a sharp brake on the further development of the Slovak nation, in particular. The Slovak national movement, which had begun to develop promisingly in the mid-nineteenth century, clashed with the Budapest administration over the latter's effort to create a unified Hungarian national State. The Hungarian administration began carrying out an uncompromising policy of Hungarization in the Slovak regions, discriminated against them economically and persecuted the Slovak political movement. In an effort to withstand this brutal pressure, the Slovak bourgeoisie, and especially the intelligentsia, began to cooperate more and more closely with the Czech bourgeoisie and intelligentsia. Under the new historical conditions, the long tradition of mutual relations and cooperation between Czechs and Slovaks became an historical necessity and an important factor in the joint struggle against Austro-Hungarian tyranny.

The development of capitalism, and particularly industrialization, which brought with it the development of big industry, created a new social class — the proletariat. The working class, which grew rapidly in the latter half of the 19th century, especially in the Czech lands, put forward its own political programme as early as the 1870's, a programme based on scientific socialism — Marxism. On April 7, 1878 a congress of Czech Social Democrats was held in Prague-Břevnov; it founded, as part of the All-Austrian party, the Czecho-Slavonic Social Democratic Workers' Party. J. B. Pecka and Ladislav Zápotocký were elected to head the Central Committee of the Party, and Josef Hybeš was elected a member of its Control Commission. The Congress adopted a programme for the party as well as its organizational statutes, which were based on the principles of proletarian internationalism and on the statutes of the Communist League. The Czecho-Slavonic Social Democratic Party became the leading political force of the Czech working class, and directed in the first period together with the Austrian Social Democratic Party the very difficult class struggle of the Czech and German proletariat for social and political emancipation. Towards the end of the 19th century, the revolutionary workers' movement, headed by the Social Democrats, led the struggle for democracy, the equality of nations and the codification of all basic civil freedoms in the Hapsburg monarchy. This struggle ended victoriously: universal suffrage for men was introduced in 1907, when the Austrian Government, influenced by the first Russian revolution, was forced to accept the workers' demands.

Imperialism greatly intensified the uneven economic, social and cultural development within the monarchy, and forced the capitalists from Germany and Hohenzollern militarists to interfere more and more in the internal affairs of the Hapsburg monarchy under the slogan of pan-Germanism. The rise of imperialism in Austria-Hungary was accompanied by a serious State and parliamentary crisis which neither the Crown nor the ruling classes in Austria and Hungary were able to overcome. The intensified struggle for domestic and foreign markets between capitalists of different nationalities inside the monarchy, the growing pressure of banks seated in Germany and the increasing tension between imperialist Austria-Hungary and imperialist Russia in the Balkans and in the Carpathians ultimately led to the monarchy's adopting an adventurist and expansionist foreign policy in the Balkans. The first step was the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the final step was the unleashing of World War I.

The outbreak of World War I, which at first took the Czech political leaders by surprise, raised the question to what extent the Austro-Hungarian system would suit the Czech and the Slovak nation after the war. Fears that German imperialism would completely dominate the Hapsburg monarchy and that the Czech and Slovak nations would once again be faced with the danger of systematic Germanization and Hungarization finally led most Czech and Slovak political leaders to support the idea of a popular liberation movement. The goal of the liberation struggle at first was the general restructuring of Austria-Hungary; later it began to demand that the monarchy be broken up. The latter radical aim was pursued in particular by the Czechoslovak resistance movement abroad, which was set up immediately after the outbreak of war by Czech and Slovak emigrants in Russia, France, Great Britain and the USA. The bourgeois Czechoslovak foreign resistance joined the Allied imperialist bloc. Until the spring of 1917, however, its efforts met with little success, for the war plans of the Allied Governments made no allowance for the dismembering of the Hapsburg monarchy, which they regarded as an important stabilizing factor in Central Europe.

It was the Russian revolution, which broke out in March 1917, that first seriously weakened the military and police dictatorship in the Hapsburg monarchy and later began to prepare the ground for an active political struggle to achieve constitutional transformations in Central Europe and the Danube region. However, it was only after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which gave a great impetus to the revolutionary movement inside the Hapsburg monarchy and in all the warring States, that the Allied Powers were forced to take into account the national liberation efforts being made in central and south-eastern Europe. The Allied Powers tried, with a considerable degree of success, to make use of these national liberation efforts for the purpose of weakening the proletarian revolutionary movement, particularly by doing everything they could to encourage the bourgeois-nationalist and chauvinist tendencies evident in the efforts. Nevertheless, before the end of the war the powerful revolutionary movement inside the Hapsburg monarchy had completely undermined the authority and machinery of the State. In the autumn of 1918, even before the actual peace talks had started, the Hapsburg monarchy disintegrated.

The extent of the revolutionary movement in the Czech lands and its anti-bourgeois, class character, evident especially after December 1917, were clearly demonstrated by the mass actions of the working people, particularly on May Day 1918, when slogans calling for a socialist nation appeared. These ideas took an even more marked form in the attempt of the Socialist Council in Prague to take over power on October 14, 1918, under the slogan of a socialist republic. Even though the attempt failed, and the bourgeoisie preserved its decisive influence in the revolutionary events in Prague and in other parts of the country, the revolutionary actions of the Czech and Slovak peoples did show the depth of the class and social contradictions and the influence of the October Revolution on the birth of the Czechoslovak State.

These actions make it clear that the Austro-Hungarian monarchy did not fall apart solely because it was unable to cope with the growing tensions among its nations and nationalities, but that it was the class struggle and the social dissatisfaction of the masses that forced the fall of the semi-feudal monarchist regime. Excessive class and political oppression led to the collapse of the reactionary Hapsburg regime.

The proclamation of an independent Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918 was an important milestone in the development of the Czech and the Slovak nations. From the very beginning, however, the Czechoslovak Republic, which arose out of the ruins of the Hapsburg monarchy, was faced with a very complicated international situation. It had been created as the result of a mass revolutionary movement and the active national liberation efforts of the Czech and Slovak peoples, and was the fruit of resolute revolutionary transformations ushered in by the October Revolution. This fact was also very convincingly confirmed by the establishment of the Slovak Soviet Republic in Prešov — an attempt by the Slovak working class, in cooperation with the Hungarian working class, to take over power. But this extension of the proletarian revolution in Hungary to the territory of Czechoslovakia, which did much towards intensifying the revolutionary situation in the Czech lands as well, induced the ruling Czech bourgeoisie to ruthlessly attack, with the support of the imperialist Allied armies, the Slovak Soviet Republic; the Czechoslovak bourgeois army also played a major role in strangling the Hungarian Soviet Republic. In order to protect itself fully against the revolutionary movement, and also against the possibility of a new attack by German imperialism, the ruling Czech bourgeoisie incorporated the new Czechoslovak State into the French great-power bloc, so that its fate was largely bound up with the firmness displayed by this great-power bloc as a whole. For this reason, Czechoslovakia's bourgeois foreign policy was always obliged to consistently defend the status quo created in Europe at the Paris Peace Conference. These efforts on the part of the Czechoslovak bourgeoisie came increasingly into conflict with the consequences of the newly intensified uneven development of capitalism in Europe which gradually again put Germany into the forefront.

Although the Czech bourgeoisie, actively supported by the Slovak bourgeoisie, succeeded rather quickly in consolidating the power of big capital and in creating a relatively stable bourgeois regime, the Czechoslovak proletariat continued its revolutionary efforts to make the new State genuinely democratic and socially equitable. Under the leadership of the Marxist left, the revolutionary proletarian movement tried to achieve the realization of its demands. At the same time, it came out actively in defence of Soviet Russia, and during the Polish war of intervention against the Soviets blocked shipments of war material destined for Poland. However, all these efforts eventually failed, because the opportunist and reformist right-wing leadership of the Social Democratic Party, acting out of fear of the revolutionary proletarian movement, opted for a class conciliation with the bourgeoisie. With the consent of the Czechoslovak President, T. G. Masaryk, Social Democratic ministers left the Government, and the Social Democratic Party leaders gave their approval to the formation of a Government of bureaucrats who were given the task of cracking down on the revolutionary movement. The class conflict which flared up when the right-wing leadership of the Social Democratic Party took over the People's House in Prague and prevented the Marxist left from publishing its own paper, climaxed in a general strike in December 1920 that was brutally suppressed by the bourgeois Czechoslovak Government.

After the defeat of the strike, the Czechoslovak revolutionary proletariat realized that if it wanted to achieve its goals, it had to form a new, revolutionary workers' party, as had been done by the proletariat in other countries. The experience gained in the fierce class struggles at the end of the war and especially after the war, when the betrayal of the right-wing Social Democratic leaders prevented the working class from assuming the leading role in the new State, led to the founding of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. At the constituent congress in May 1921, and at the congress of merger in September 1921, a unified revolutionary party of Czech, Slovak, German, Hungarian and Polish workers in Czechoslovakia was founded, which succeeded in drafting the revolutionary lines of the struggle for the decisive social changes and for creating the prerequisites for the definitive solution of the question of the

national existence of the Czechs and the Slovaks. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, born under the direct influence of the Great October Socialist Revolution, became the militant revolutionary leader of the Czechoslovak proletariat; in cooperation with the other Communist Parties and under the leadership of the Communist International it began to organize the working people's struggle to overthrow capitalism and the political rule of the bourgeoisie in Czechoslovakia.

The developments in Czechoslovakia between the two world wars showed that although the Czech and Slovak bourgeoisie were able to preserve their political and economic domination, and even to extend it, they were incapable of resolving a single major political, economic and social problem throughout the whole existence of the bourgeois Czechoslovak State. Their representatives tied Czechoslovakia to the French imperialist bloc in Europe by means of treaties, and strove to preserve the outcome of World War I without any substantial changes, in the belief that Czechoslovakia would be given sufficient protection in the event of an attack by German imperialism. But towards the end of the 1920's, and especially after Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933, it became evident that the new exacerbation of the differences between the imperialists in Europe was starting to substantially weaken the French great-power system, and to create conditions for a new armed conflict which — as subsequent developments showed — inevitably imperilled the very existence of independent Czechoslovakia. It was confirmed that imperialism and its political interests could not be a permanent basis on which to build safeguards for Czechoslovakia's existence as an independent State. The most convincing proof of this came with the Munich Agreement of September 1938, which cleared the way for German imperialism and fascism to begin a march to the East and prepare for war against the USSR, and which — in defiance of the wishes of the Czechoslovak people — delivered bourgeois Czechoslovakia to Nazi tyranny. The loss of the border areas of the Czech lands and the subsequent occupation of the Czech lands made it clear that the Czech and Slovak bourgeoisie had been unable to surmount the contradiction that had existed since the very birth of the new State: the fact that the proclamation of independent Czechoslovakia was made possible, on the one hand, by the determined offensive of the proletarian revolution in Russia and the revolutionary wave which arose under its influence throughout Europe and, on the other hand, by the negation of these revolutionary sources, the consolidation of the class rule of big capital and the bourgeoisie, and the incorporation of the new State in the imperialist system worked out at Versailles.

The internal political developments in Czechoslovakia between the two world wars also showed that the Czech and Slovak bourgeoisie were unable to resolve a single major problem facing the new State. The struggle for the creation of an independent Czechoslovakia had been waged with the aim of creating a national State of the Czechs and the Slovaks. But the Czech bourgeoisie immediately started to pursue an imperialist, anti-nationalities policy, trying to use its leading position to keep the Slovak question unresolved, and exploiting the justified demands of the other nationalities to foment chauvinism and bourgeois nationalism. The Czech bourgeoisie was objectively supported in this policy, which was directed against the interests of the people, by various groups of the Slovak bourgeoisie, which started pressing separatist demands, by the German bourgeoisie, which — particularly after Hitler's rise to power — started demanding that the border areas be ceded to Germany, and by the Hungarian bourgeoisie, which had succumbed to the siren call of irredentism at the very beginning. The inability to find a solution to the relations between the country's nationalities was one of the underlying causes of the overall internal political weakening of bourgeois Czechoslovakia at the end of the 1930's, and this made it possible for Hitler to carry out his aggressive plans.

The only political force that had consistently defended the interests of the working people and tried to prepare the Czechoslovak working class for its revolutionary, historic tasks, was the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

In the 1920's, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia underwent a process of bolshevization in which it shook off all traces of social-democratic opportunism and reformism. Gradually, it learned to guide the revolutionary struggle of the working class. At the historic 5th Congress (1929), the Party created the conditions for playing the role of a revolutionary workers' vanguard. At this Congress, a new Party leadership headed by Klement Gottwald was elected. In a relatively short time, the new leadership succeeded in consolidating the Party and putting it at the head of the class struggles of the working people. This was taking place at a time when Czechoslovakia was hit by the great economic crisis, and about a million people were unemployed. The class and social position of the workers and of several other sectors of the working people deteriorated enormously. It was during this period of new, massive class conflicts — frequent strikes, demonstrations and other actions on the part of the unemployed — that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia organized a revolutionary resistance movement of the workers against their increasing persecution and repression by the bourgeois State and the capitalists. The famous strike in Most in 1932 clearly demonstrated that the new policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was a successful one, and that the Party had become the leading political force of the working class. At the same time, the incidents in Radotín, Krompachy and Duchcov, in which working people were shot at, showed that the bourgeoisie was intent on asserting its class interests mercilessly and without any moral inhibitions, and that it was prepared to use any means to do so.

The internal political developments as a whole, as well as Czechoslovakia's steadily worsening international position, were evidence that in Czechoslovakia, too, capitalism and the bourgeoisie were unable to escape the consequences of the general crisis of capitalism, and that the problems relating to the situation of the working class and other working people could not be solved by means of partial reforms or by a class conciliation with the bourgeoisie. The Czech bourgeoisie also proved itself inept in the economic sphere: the total industrial output in 1939 was no bigger than in 1913. The economic stagnation of bourgeois Czechoslovakia was indicative of the overall historical decline of capitalism and the bourgeoisie in the Czech lands and in Slovakia. Meanwhile, the class policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was guided by the aim of forming a united front of the working people against capitalist exploitation in the years of the economic crisis, and establishing ties of alliance with the Soviet Union. The concrete expression of these efforts was the conclusion of a treaty of alliance with the USSR in 1935. The policy of the Communist Party also made it possible for the working class to assume the leadership of a broad-based people's front against the fascist danger, the leadership of the struggle for democracy and in defence of the Republic, against the policy of capitulation of the bourgeois leaders. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia thus succeeded in becoming the leading political force in the fight against fascism, and in bringing the working class, on the eve of World War II, into the commanding position in the emerging national liberation movement in defence of the existence of the State and the freedom of the nation.

Munich and March 15, 1939, the day when the Czechoslovak State was snuffed out by Nazi Germany, brought a profound political crisis to Czechoslovak society. They became a symbol of the betrayal of the nation by the Western powers and the Czechoslovak big bourgeoisie, of the capitulation of bourgeois and reformist party leaders. The failure of the anti-popular and anti-national policy of the bourgeoisie, which was oriented towards the Western capitalist powers, was a bitter experience for the Czechoslovak people. The only ally that remained true to Czechoslovakia was already at that time the Soviet Union.

The events of 1938 and 1939 and the whole course of the national liberation movement against the Nazi occupants during World War II proved that a new class would have to head the State and the nation. The proletariat was the only class capable of playing this role, because its class interests were in keeping with the national interests. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, whose policy of a broad popular anti-fascist front was the only one to stand the test during the critical days that the nation and the State passed through, was the only party able to seize the historical opportunity offered to the working class in the struggle against the Nazi occupants. After Munich there was no return to pre-Munich conditions.

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia worked out and put into action a plan for the national liberation struggle that envisaged a growing large-scale armed struggle culminating in a popular armed uprising. All the Party's activities throughout the Nazi occupation were designed to ensure that the main social force in the uprising would be the working class; this would influence the character of the uprising in a decisive way, attract the popular masses and thus create conditions for the further development of the revolutionary process. Since no anti-fascist resistance struggle or uprising in World War II could be an isolated affair, but had to be an organic part of the world-wide anti-fascist struggle, the plans for the uprising were linked to the decisive role played by the Soviet Union in the war and to the Soviet Army's mission of liberating the oppressed nations.

The national liberation struggle of the Czechs and Slovaks grew in strength with the victorious advance of the Soviet Army. It began to take on more and more aspects of an anti-fascist popular democratic revolution. The Moscow leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which was headed by Klement Gottwald, came to the conclusion that the national liberation struggle of the Czech and Slovak nations would be consummated, just as it was after World War I, by a national and democratic revolution but that the dominant force in this revolution would not be any more the bourgeoisie but the working class in alliance with the peasantry. This thesis was adopted by the Communist resistance movement within the country as a guideline for further resistance activities.

In keeping with this view of the Moscow leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Slovak National Uprising broke out in Slovakia on August 29, 1944; in view of its content, revolutionary transformations, practice and ideology, it can be said to have marked the beginning of the national and democratic revolution. It gave a powerful impulse to the further development of the national liberation struggle of the Czech and Slovak nations, which climaxed in the May 1945 Uprising of the Czech People and ended victoriously with the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army on May 9, 1945. The leading force in both uprisings, which grew into a national and democratic revolution, was the Communist Party, under whose leadership all the anti-fascist forces were unified under the hegemony of the working class.

At this stage, the national and democratic revolution achieved the revolutionary aims of the national liberation struggle in the field of power: throughout the liberated areas of Czechoslovakia, power was taken over by National Committees, which gradually dismantled the administrative structures left by the occupants, dealt with war damage and disruption and put the national economy on a peace-time footing once again. Through the intermediary of works councils the united working class created workers' control over the factories seized from the occupants and traitors. The National Front, which associated all forces of the nation, became the political basis of the new democratic power of the people. Its joint political platform was the Košice Government Programme, which was an expression of the new idea of the State in liberated Czechoslovakia and marked the victory of the proletarian line in the national and democratic revolution. All political parties associated in the National Front were pledged to help implement it.

The victory did not come automatically. It was preceded by tremendous organizational and ideological work, propaganda, canvassing and sacrifice on the part of the Communist Party, which bore the brunt of the national liberation struggle. Many heroes, some of them known and others unknown, lost their lives in this struggle. Of the 300,000 victims of fascist terror, more than 25,000 were Communists, nearly fifty per cent of the Party's prewar membership.

In the eyes of the people, the political programme of the Communist Party also stood the hard test of the war, the occupation and the resistance struggle. The people became convinced that after the liberation there must be no return to the pre-Munich political system, that the new Republic must have a new economic, social and political structure and that it must establish a just social order and adopt a foreign policy that would eliminate forever the possibility of a new tragedy like that of Munich and the occupation. An overwhelming majority of the working people could see for themselves that such an historical guarantee would be given by alliance and friendship with the Soviet Union.

The decisive role in defeating fascism in World War II and in liberating our nations from fascist oppression was played by the Soviet Union. Altogether 144,000 Soviet soldiers lost their lives in liberating Czechoslovakia. The Soviet Union and its heroic army saved our nations from destruction and presented them with the chance to make a free decision on their own future. The liberating mission of the Soviet Union and the results achieved by the nations of Czechoslovakia in the hard struggle against fascism and for national liberation created the decisive conditions for the establishment of a people's democratic Republic.

The main task of the national and democratic revolution was fulfilled with the restoration of independent Czechoslovakia. But the revolution continued; its ultimate goals had still to be achieved. Naturally, the bourgeoisie hoped that the revolutionary wave would gradually subside and that it would be able to contain the revolution into the framework of a formal bourgeois democracy. It strove for a substantial curtailment of Communist influence and for the establishment of a socially reformed bourgeois democracy. The Communists, on the other hand, were aware of the fact that the new revolutionary national democratic power had created a favourable situation in which the historical role of the working class could be asserted.

Along with the general democratization of public life through the dismantling of the State apparatus from the occupation period and the establishment of National Committees as bodies of State power and administration, the revolution brought about extensive social transformations. The confiscation of all property of the occupants made it possible to carry out an extensive land reform and to set up national administration boards in all big industrial corporations. In October 1945, all the banks, financial establishments and key industries were nationalized. This liquidated the economic power positions of the big bourgeoisie. This nationalization was the first and at the same time the most extensive nationalization programme undertaken anywhere in the world in the immediate post-war period. This marked the end of a stage in which measures of a national and democratic character were paramount: since then, socialist tendencies have come to dominate the development of the people's democracy.

The divison of the world into two antagonistic blocs had an immediate impact on the political life in Czechoslovakia. The relationship between political parties inside the National Front began to become more tense. Just as the Western powers were losing interest in peaceful coexistence in international politics, the bourgeois political parties in Czechoslovakia became less interested in cooperation in the internal political life of the country.

In a certain sense, the Czechoslovak revolution reached a climax at the end of 1947 and the beginning of 1948. Two antagonistic political blocs emerged: the leftist bloc, represented by the Communist Party and the most important mass organizations, and the rightist bloc, represented by the National Socialist Party, the People's Party and the Slovak Democratic Party. A lack of confidence and tension between the two blocs marked the pre-February political climate. Although on the surface the political struggle concerned only proposals and measures of a partial character, in essence it involved basic class interests. The most intense struggle was waged for determining the nature of the National Committees, the concept of the National Front, the course of the further development of the armed forces, for the unified social organizations, the land reform, the implementation of the Two-Year Economic Plan and the country's international orientation. Towards the end of 1947, these efforts concentrated in particular on the struggle to introduce a new Constitution for the Republic. The Communists set as the condition for further cooperation with the other parties the adoption of a new Constitution that would guarantee the gains already achieved and open the road more widely towards socialism. This the bourgeoisie refused. The fundamental social contradictions of Czechoslovak society were reduced to a basic choice: either socialism or the restoration of the capitalist order.

This was the background to the decisive clash in Czechoslovakia in February 1948, which settled the long-standing struggle for political power between the working class and the bourgeoisie.

The attempt by the bourgeois forces to stage a counter-revolutionary coup, which began on February 20, 1948 with the resignation of their ministers in a bid to reverse the balance of power, ended in a crushing political defeat. The working masses responded magnificently, foiling the counter-revolutionary attempt of the bourgeoisie. The victory of the working people over bourgeois reaction was at the same time the result of the resolute stand of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which ably formulated the strategic and tactical objectives in this decisive confrontation with the bourgeoisie.

In February, 1948, two problems were resolved in favour of the working class and the other working people: the Government crisis provoked by the bourgeoisie and, at the same time, the general political crisis, which the working class, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, solved through revolutionary means. In this way February 1948 speeded up the progress to socialism, for it marked the total political victory of the working class and resulted in the destruction of all the power-base of the bourgeoisie. This was the first victory of a socialist orientation in an advanced industrial country with deep-rooted democratic traditions, in a country, in which the working class represented over 50 per cent of the population. At the same time it confirmed the international validity of Marxism-Leninism and its creative application to Czechoslovak conditions.

While the emergence of the people's democratic system in May 1945 marked a definite turning point in the modern history of Czechoslovakia, the February 1948 victory of the working people over the bourgeoisie decided the question of power once and for all in favour of the working class and all the working people. The revolutionary workers' movement, with its socialist character, combined with the democratic movement of the middle strata to become a powerful force in the construction of socialism.

The programme of socialist construction in Czechoslovakia was embodied in the resolution on the general line in the construction of socialism adopted by the 9th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in May 1949. The general line stemmed from the general laws governing the construction of socialism, from Leninist ideas and the generalized experiences of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which were applied in a creative way to the specific conditions existing in Czechoslovakia. It was in keeping with the existing degree of development, the conditions and needs of the society, the aims of the revolutionary struggle of the working class and the interests of the broad strata of the working people.

The nature of the socialist construction of Czechoslovak society in the following quarter-century in its transition from capitalism to socialism was determined by such factors as the building of the material and technical base for socialism, the socialist transformation of the countryside, the creation of new socialist relations and the cultural revolution. The whole process linked up with the reconstruction and the development of industry, with the creation of economic independence from the capitalist economy, and with the development of political and economic ties with the Soviet Union and the other people's democracies. This strengthened the defence capability of the country and ensured a steady rise in the standard of living and the guarantees for a secure life.

During this period, revolutionary social changes took place in Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak bourgeoisie ceased to exist as a class, and the leading position in the State was assumed by the working class in alliance with the cooperative farmers and socialist intelligentsia. In the economic sphere, socialist production relations came to prevail, thus becoming the basis for general quantitative economic growth. The socialization of the countryside was carried out. Unified agricultural cooperatives became firmly established in villages throughout Czechoslovakia. The introduction of modern agricultural technology and socialist production relations meant that Czechoslovak agriculture came to be guided by industrial methods of production. Czechoslovakia became one of the most economically advanced countries in Europe and in the world.

Socialist society has given the working people guarantees of a secure existence unprecedented in the history of the Czech and Slovak nations, and this has been accompanied by a marked rise in the standard of living of all strata of the population. Social barriers barring access to higher education for children from workers' and farmers' families have been removed, and an extensive socialist reformation of the educational system was carried out. The State has taken over all responsibility for providing the material conditions necessary for scientific research and the education of new scientific workers. A system of cultural establishments has been built throughout the country. The immense social impact of the process of democratization has transformed our country into one of the culturally most advanced States of the world. The general advancement of Czechoslovak society has been matched by the great progress achieved in settling the nationality issue. Today, Slovakia is an advanced industrial and agricultural country, producing more industrial goods than all of capitalist Czechoslovakia before the war. The federal set-up of the State has created optimum conditions for the development of the nations and nationalities living in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The existence of the Soviet Union and the world socialist system have created favourable external conditions for the development of the socialist revolution in Czechoslovakia, and the construction of the Czechoslovak socialist society. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is a firm part of the socialist camp. This country's achievements in building socialism have become part of the world revolutionary process.

The process of building socialism was not easy, but was accompanied by obstacles and difficulties. In the rapid and complicated process of development which Czechoslovak society has undergone and in which the working people have been learning the art of managing and ruling, mistakes and errors have also been made. Forces hostile to socialism, both domestic and foreign, have attempted to make use of these difficulties and mistakes for their own ends. Their efforts culminated in 1968 in a counter-revolutionary endeavour to liquidate socialism in Czechoslovakia.

In place of socialism built on the principles of Marxism-Leninism, the anti-socialist forces, supported by foreign centres guided by the ideology of imperialist subversion, tried to institute petty-bourgeois „democratic socialism“, which would serve as a bridge to the restoration of capitalism. They relied on the support of all nationalist and revisionist streams, whose core were the petty-bourgeois strata. The destructive activity of the anti-socialist forces was reflected in all spheres of Czechoslovak society as well as in the Communist Party, which they wanted to turn into a reformist party of the social democratic type.

The working people came out against the counter-revolutionary efforts. Thanks to the efforts and the selfless work of hundreds of thousands of Communists, the Marxist-Leninist forces in the society joined in the decisive struggle to overcome the effects of the counter-revolutionary disruption. A new leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was elected with Gustáv Husák at the head. The exacting task of leading the Party, the working class and the working people, the nations of Czechoslovakia and the Czechoslovak State away from the counter-revolutionary disruption was carried out successfully, and domestic as well as external conditions were created for the further advancement of socialist society in Czechoslovakia.

Just as it had done in the years when Czechoslovakia was immediately threatened by fascism, during the national liberation struggle, in the uprisings of both the nations and at the beginning of the national and democratic revolution, so in 1968 the Soviet Union answered the appeals of Czechoslovak citizens; with its help, Czechoslovak society was saved from civil war and a counter-revolutionary coup and this aid from the USSR, together with that of the other socialist allies, prevented the state of affairs in Europe resulting from World War II from being changed. This confirmed the historical truth voiced by the Czechoslovak Communists that there is no future for an independent and socialist Czechoslovakia outside of alliance with the Soviet Union.

The difficulties, mistakes and attempts at counter-revolutionary coups cannot diminish the greatness of socialist construction, its moral and material achievements. The example of Czechoslovakia serves as a confirmation that socialism is the most progressive and the most modern social order to date. It not only satisfies the material needs of the people, but at the same time also opens up unlimited possibilities for the all-round development of the individual and his assertion in society. It frees him of the class antagonisms of capitalist society, of exploitation of man by man, of fear of

material insecurity. Simultaneously, well-being is increasing in organic unity with the spiritual growth of the working people, with the growth of their socialist consciousness and with their greater share in the management of the State and the society.

At the same time, however, it appears that the elimination and the overcoming of revisionism and opportunism requires a systematic and uncompromising political and especially ideological struggle in which there is no place for appeasement or compromise. Only in this way is it possible to prevent the surviving elements of the former exploiting classes from relying on what remains of petty-bourgeois ideology and the influence of anti-Communist subversion.

The 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in 1971 confirmed once again that the aim of the Communists' endeavour has been and is the satisfaction of the basic interests of the working class and the rest of the working people. This is why the process of development of the Czechoslovak socialist society is oriented towards further widening the material and technological bases of socialism and towards the strengthening of socialist production relations, in conjunction with the intensification of international socialist integration. The main aim of this economic development is the further growth of the living standard and the cultural attainments of the people. Czechoslovak foreign policy is therefore governed by a spirit of friendly cooperation, friendship and firm alliance with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

The programme outlined by the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is leading to a higher degree of political, economic and cultural advancement of socialist society, to a full socialist life of the Czechoslovak people and to the strengthening of the international position of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

THE SOCIAL AND STATE SYSTEM

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is a socialist State based on a firm alliance of the workers, farmers and the intelligentsia, which is headed by the working class.

Czechoslovakia is part of the world socialist system. It strives to maintain friendly relations with all nations and to ensure a lasting peace in the whole world.

The Republic is founded on the principles of socialist democracy. All power in the State belongs to the working people who exercise it through representative bodies at various levels that are elected and controlled by the people and accountable to them. The civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution enable all citizens to participate in the management of the State. Wide scope for active participation in the life of the society and the State is also offered to all citizens by the voluntary social organizations and political parties, which are associated in the National Front.

The economic basis of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is the socialist economic system, which excludes any form of exploitation of man by man.

The socialist economic system, where the means of production are socialized and the whole economy is run on the basis of a plan, ensures a steady increase in production and a constant growth of the working people's living standard. The unity of the political and economic management of the society and the economy is expressed by the management of the national economy through the State Plan and the management of the budgetary funds through the State budget.

One of the important constitutional principles in the structure of the State is the leading role of the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which is the determining political, class-based and constitutional foundation of the State system. The leading role of the Communist Party and of the working class is set forth in the Constitution, an expression of the objective fact that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia has been and is the decisive factor in the existence of the Czechoslovak socialist State and the prerequisite for its positive development. This leading role guarantees that all representative bodies and other State bodies will consistently bear in mind the socialist content and programmatic goals set forth in the Constitution of July 11, 1960, whose aim is to constantly deepen socialist democracy and to create conditions for the establishment of a fully-developed socialist society and for the transition to Communism.

The Constitution

The Constitution is the fundamental law of the State, containing the basic legal norms of the social system, the political organization and the position of citizens, and is binding upon all bodies and citizens of the State. The right to approve the Constitution and its amendments is one of the powers reserved for the Federal Assembly.

The Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was approved by the National Assembly on July 11, 1960, supplemented later with the Constitutional Acts on the Czechoslovak Federation of October 27, 1968 and December 20, 1970.

The Czechoslovak Federation

Under the Constitutional Act on the Czechoslovak Federation, which became effective on January 1, 1969, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is a federative State of two equal fraternal nations, the Czechs and the Slovaks. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (ČSSR) consists of the Czech Socialist Republic (ČSR) and the Slovak Socialist Republic (SSR). Both republics respect each other's sovereignty and the sovereignty of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; in the same way, the latter respects the sovereignty of the two national States.

State power is excercised by the working people through their representative bodies: the Federal Assembly, the Czech National Council, the Slovak National Council and the National Committees.

The capital of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and of the Czech Socialist Republic is Prague. The capital of the Slovak Socialist Republic is Bratislava.

The Head of State

The head of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is the President. He is elected for a term of five years by the Federal Assembly, to which he is accountable for the performance of his duties.

The President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic represents the State in international relations, concludes and ratifies international treaties and receives and appoints ambassadors. He convenes the sessions of the Federal Assembly, signs the laws passed by the Federal Assembly and appoints and recalls the Prime Minister and other members of the Czechoslovak Government. He has the right to grant amnesty and is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces; at the request of the Czechoslovak Government he declares a state of war and, on the basis of a decision of the Federal Assembly, he declares war if Czechoslovakia has been attacked or if the State must fulfil its international obligations under treaties of joint defence against aggression.

The election of the Czechoslovak President is held in the last fortnight before his term of office expires. If the office of President becomes vacant before the end of the term of office, an election is held within a fortnight at the latest.

Representative Bodies

The representative bodies constitute the pillars of the whole mechanism of the socialist State.

Through them, and under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the working people exercise State power and take part in the management and in administration of all social affairs of major importance. The representative organs embody the democratic character of the whole political system of socialism. The powers of other State bodies are derived from them.

The representative bodies of the working people in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic are as follows: the Federal Assembly, the Czech National Council, the Slovak National Council and the National Committees. In their activities, the representative bodies and all other State organs rely on the creative initiative and direct participation of the working people and their organizations.

The right to elect representatives to all representative bodies is universal, equal and direct, and voting is by secret ballot. Every citizen who has turned 18 has the right to vote. The right to stand for election is extended to all citizens 21 years of age and over.

The members of representative bodies — deputies — are obliged to keep in permanent contact with their electors and to attend to their suggestions; they are accountable to them for their work and are required to inform them of the activities of the body of which they are members.

By the decision of the electorate, members of any representative body may be recalled.

The legislation on elections to the Federal Assembly, the two National Councils and the National Committees passed in July 1971 adopted the basic principles of the socialist election system, which had previously proved to be fully suitable in State and political practice, and further strengthened the socialist nature of the elections.

The legislation concerning elections is contained in a set of five laws. The elections to the two Houses of the Federal Assembly are governed by Act No. 44/1971, passed by the Federal Assembly on July 6, 1971.

The elections to the Czech National Council take place under the provisions of Act No. 53/1971, and elections to National Committees in the Czech Socialist Republic under Act No. 54/1971. Both laws were passed by the Czech National Council on July 7, 1971.

On July 8, 1971 the Slovak National Council also passed two election laws: Act No. 55/1971 on elections to the Slovak National Council and Act No. 56/1971 on elections to National Committees in the Slovak Socialist Republic.

The results of the elections to representative bodies held on November 26 and 27, 1971 were as follows:

Number of registered voters
10,253,796
Turnout at elections
10,197,234 (99.45 %)
Votes for candidates to the House of the People
10,153, 572 (99.81 %)
Votes for candidates to the House of Nations
10,144,464 (99.77 %)
Votes for candidates to the Czech National Council
7,172,046 (99.78 %)
Votes for candidates to the Slovak National Council
2,983,603 (99.94 %)

The Federal Assembly

This is the supreme body of State power in Czechoslovakia and the only legislative body of the Federation as a whole. It has two equal Houses, the House of the People and the House of Nations. All legislation must be passed by both Houses to become valid unless the constitutional Act makes a different provision or the decision concerns only one of the Houses.

The House of the People has 200 deputies from all parts of Czechoslovakia, elected by direct suffrage for a term of five years.

The House of Nations is an expression of the equal position of the two republics. It has 150 deputies elected by direct suffrage for a term of five years, 75 of them from the Czech Socialist Republic, and 75 from the Slovak Socialist Republic.

The Federal Assembly must hold sessions at least twice a year. The sessions are convened by the President of the Republic. The Houses meet at the decision of their respective Presidiums. The Houses hold joint sessions if the proceedings concern the election of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairmen of the Federal Assembly and the discussion of the Czechoslovak Government Programme.

The main powers reserved for the Federal Assembly include the right to take decisions concerning the Czechoslovak Constitution and constitutional and other Acts, and to see how they are being implemented; to debate basic international and national issues; to approve medium-range State plans for the development of the national economy and the federal Budget, to check their implementation and to approve the State Closing Account of the Federation; to elect the President of the Republic and to discuss his reports; to debate the Government Programme and to examine the Government's activity and the work of its members, to debate motions of confidence in the Government; to set up federal ministries by the passage of constitutional Acts.

The Federal Assembly takes the decision to declare war in case Czechoslovakia is attacked or if the State is called upon to fulfil its obligations under international treaties on joint defence against aggression.

International political and economic treaties of a general nature, as well as international treaties the implementation of which can be effected only under Federal Assembly legislation, require the Assembly's consent before ratification.

Each House of the Federal Assembly elects its own Presidium, which consists of from three to six deputies, and sets up committees to initiate legislation and act as supervisory bodies. Both Houses elect the forty-member Presidium of the Federal Assembly; twenty members are elected by the House of the People and the other twenty by the House of Nations (ten are deputies from the Czech Socialist Republic and ten deputies from the Slovak Socialist Republic). The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Federal Assembly are elected by the House of the People and the House of Nations from members of the Presidium of the Federal Assembly.

The Czech National Council
The Slovak National Council

The National Councils are the representatives of the national sovereignty and identity of the Czech and Slovak nations and the supreme bodies of State power in the Czech and the Slovak Socialist Republics. They are the supreme representative bodies of the two republics and their only legislative organs.

The Czech National Council has 200 deputies, the Slovak National Council 150. The National Councils are elected for a term of five years. They hold sessions at least twice a year. The sessions are convened by the Presidium of the National Council.

The jurisdiction of National Councils includes decision-making on constitutional and other laws of the republic, debate on basic issues of domestic policy, approval of medium-range plans for the development of the economy and of the Budget of the republic, approval of the republic's State Closing Account, election of the Chairman and other members of the Presidium, debate on the republic's Government Programme and supervision of the Government's activity, setting up of ministries and other central organs of the republic's administration.

National Councils, as the supreme representative bodies of the republics, deal with suggestions from the National Committees, discuss their activities and take decisions on measures concerning their structure.

National Councils set up committees to initiate legislation and act as supervisory bodies and elect their Chairmen and other members. Both National Councils elect from their midst a Presidium, the jurisdiction of which includes the appointment and the recalling of the Premier and the other members of the republic's Government.

The Presidium of the National Council announces elections to the National Council and elections to National Committees.

The National Committees

These are bodies of socialist State power in the regions, districts and communities. They organize plan-based development of construction projects in the economic, cultural and medical spheres in the territory under their authority. Being State bodies of a self-governing character, they concentrate their work on satisfying the needs of society as well as needs linked to the development of town and villages. They protect the rights and legitimate interests of citizens and organizations and see that they observe the laws. They represent the State power of the working people in the individual territorial divisions. Their position in the system of State bodies in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and of the two national republics is defined in the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

National Committees are representative bodies composed of deputies who are elected by and accountable to the people and who may be recalled by the people. They carry out all their activities with the active participation of the working people living within their territory, who take part in the work of the various commissions, participate in public plenary meetings, work in citizens' committees, etc. The National Committees thus ensure the participation of broad sections of the public in the administration of the State and make use of their experience. They carry out their work in close collaboration with the organizations of the National Front.

They are composed of deputies elected for a term of five years. National Committees plan, control and organize the development of the economic, cultural, medical and social spheres. Their foremost task is to ensure continual improvement in satisfying the material and cultural needs of the working people; they set up economic, cultural, health and social facilities and oversee their work.

In their work they are guided by the State Plan for the development of the national economy. They have the necessary material and financial means to ensure the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to them under the plan.

The National Committees fulfil tasks of a national character while at the same time seeing to the special requirements of the constituencies and the interests of the citizens. Hence they are entitled to issue generally binding orders for their constituencies.

The National Committees set up a council, commissions and other bodies and oversee their work.

National Committees at higher level guide and oversee the work of lower-level National Committees, while respecting fully their authority and responsibility.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

This is the supreme executive organ of State power in Czechoslovakia. It consists of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers, appointed and recalled by the President. After being appointed, the Czechoslovak Government is obliged to submit its programme to the Federal Assembly, to which it is accountable for the execution of its functions. It may tender its resignation to the President.

The Czechoslovak Government sees to the fulfilment of the tasks of the Federation in the defence of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the strengthening of the country's security, the pursuit of a peace-oriented foreign policy, in economic construction and other areas of work of the Federation. In pursuit of these aims it sees to it that the laws passed by the Federal Assembly are observed and unifies, directs and checks the activities of federal ministries and other federal bodies.

In fulfilling the tasks of the Federation, it deals also with the essential issues of importance for the whole society even in areas falling under the jurisdiction of the republics, and coordinates the solution of questions resulting from the need to pursue a unified State policy throughout the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic cooperates with the Governments of the two republics in negotiating international treaties whose implementation falls under the jurisdiction of the republics.

The Government may set up a Presidium as its body for carrying out decision-making activities.

The Government of the Czech Socialist Republic (ČSR)

The Government of the Slovak Socialist Republic (SSR)

The Governments of the two republics are the supreme executive organs of State power in the republics. Their members are the Premier, Deputy Premiers and Ministers, who are appointed and recalled by the National Council of the republics concerned.

The Governments of the two republics have the duty, after being appointed, to submit their programme to the respective National Council, to which they are accountable for the execution of their functions. They may tender their resignation to the Presidium of the National Council.

The Governments of the republics organize and see to the implementation of tasks relating to the economic, cultural and social development of the republic and to other spheres within the competence of the republic. To this aim they ensure the observance of laws, and unify, supervise and check the work of the ministries. They oversee and check the work of National Committees.

For the execution of its decision-making activity, both the Government of the Czech Socialist Republic and the Government of the Slovak Socialist Republic may set up a Government Presidium as its body.

The National Front

The National Front of Czechs and Slovaks is a class-alliance of workers, cooperative farmers, the socialist intelligentsia and other sections of the working people and their organizations, an alliance of Communists, members of other political parties and of citizens without any political affiliation, an alliance of Czechs and Slovaks, as well as other nationalities living in Czechoslovakia.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, it associates political parties and social organizations which, through its intermediary, share in government power. Its role is defined in the Czechoslovak Constitution.

The National Front was brought into being in the course of the struggle against fascism and during the national and democratic revolution. It was established in Moscow in March 1945 and in April 1945 in Košice it endorsed the first programme of the National Front Government. In February 1948 it was revitalized through the efforts of action committees.

The most important member organizations of the National Front are the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak People's Party, the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, the Freedom Party, the Slovak Reconstruction Party, the Central Council of Trade Unions, the Socialist Union of Youth, the Czechoslovak Union of Women, the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Society, the Czechoslovak Peace Committee, the Czechoslovak Union of Journalists, the Czechoslovak Union of Physical Culture, the Union for Cooperation with the Czechoslovak Army, the Czechoslovak Red Cross Organization, the Czechoslovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters and the Central Council of Cooperatives.

The National Front is based on federative principles.

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia forms the basis and leading force of the whole political system of Czechoslovak socialist society. It is a voluntary, militant and most active association of people sharing the same Communist convictions which groups the politically most conscious members of the working class, peasantry and intelligentsia in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Following the example of the Leninist Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia created a revolutionary alliance of workers, farmers and members of the progressive intelligentsia and, at its head, led the working people of the country in the struggle that overthrew the exploiting classes and brought about the victory of socialism.

After the selfless fight against the fascist occupants and after the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army, the working people — led by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia — began to build their State as a people's democracy. Under the guidance of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the working class in February 1948 led the rest of the working people to a victory over the intrigues of internal enemies who — assisted by international reactionary forces — were trying to achieve a reversal of this development. In the struggle against the reactionary forces and in their defeat, the dictatorship of the proletariat was consolidated and expanded, and the path was opened towards the building of a socialist society. The country underwent fundamental changes. The exploitation of man by man was ended once and for all, the means of production became the property of the people, and the socialist principle prevailed of "Each according to his ability, to each according to his work". The political and moral unity of the people and the fraternal ties linking the Czech and Slovak nations and other nationalities were strengthened, and cultural life greatly expanded. The Czechoslovak State, created by the working people headed by the working class, became a people's organization in the fullest sense of the term — a socialist State. In all spheres of the national economy, socialist production relations triumphed.

The policy of the Communist Party reflects the most vital interests of the working class and of the whole people. The Party was created to struggle for the cause of the people, and it serves the people. It was by the will of the working people that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia became the leading and guiding force of the society and of the State. Its leading role in the society, embodied in the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, rests in the fact that the Party organizes, plans and provides a scientific basis for the constructive efforts of the working people and their struggle for the final victory of Communism.

Statutes of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, 1971

The central press organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is the daily paper "Rudé právo".

The Communist Party of Slovakia

The Communist Party of Slovakia is the organization of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia within Slovakia.

After the secession of Slovakia from the Czechoslovak Republic in March 1939, the organization of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia within Slovakia decided to entitle itself the Communist Party of Slovakia (May 1939). Party organizations went underground to continue their activity, and made preparations for an armed uprising in Slovakia. A regular Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia was elected at a congress held at Banská Bystrica on September 17, 1944, at which the Party merged with the Social Democratic Party.

The central press organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia is the daily newspaper "Pravda".

The Czechoslovak People's Party

This party was established in the Czech lands in February 1948, through a revitalization of the Czechoslovak People's Party, founded in 1918.

"Lidová demokracie", a daily, is the press organ of the Czechoslovak People's Party.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Party

In February 1948, this party was established in the Czech lands through a revitalization of the former National Socialist Party, founded in 1897.

"Svobodné slovo", a daily, is the organ of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party.

The Freedom Party

Established in Slovakia in 1946, this party endorsed the National Front programme in February 1948.

"Sloboda", a weekly, is the press organ of the Freedom Party.

The Slovak Reconstruction Party

Progressive officials of the former Democratic Party founded this party in Slovakia in February 1948; it endorsed the National Front programme.

"Lud", a daily, is the press organ of the Slovak Reconstruction Party.

The Revolutionary Trade Union Movement

This is the largest mass-membership organization of the Czechoslovak working people. It works for the all-round development and assertion of the creative activity of the working people, and for their participation in the management and administration of society. The activity of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement in the spheres of work safety and health protection, sickness insurance and recreation, is especially important.

The Revolutionary Trade Union Movement groups all the trade unions in the country.

The highest organ of the movement, the All-Union Congress, elects the Central Council of Trade Unions.

The constituent meeting of the Central Council of Trade Unions was held clandestinely on May 1, 1945. The first All-Union Congress of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement was held in Prague from April 19 to 22, 1946.

"Práce", a daily, is the central press organ of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement.

The Socialist Union of Youth

This unified voluntary social and political organization of Czechoslovak young people was established at a National Constituent Conference held in Prague from November 9 to 11, 1970. The Young Pioneer Organization forms an integral part of the Union.

The press organ of the Central Committee of the Socialist Union of Youth is "Mladá Fronta" and, in Slovakia, "Smena"; both are daily newspapers.

The Czechoslovak Union of Women

This organization was established at a nation-wide Congress held in Prague on April 19—20, 1974. It brings together working women, and directs its activities towards promoting conditions that will help achieve a balance between the roles of women in their capacities as mothers, workers and citizens.

The Union of Women publishes the weekly magazine "Vlasta".

Churches and Religious Societies

Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The relationship between the Churches and the State is governed by a number of laws and directives for their implementation.

At present there are 18 Churches and religious societies in Czechoslovakia: the Roman Catholic Church, the Greek Catholic Church, the Czechoslovak Hussite Church, the Orthodox Church, the Czechoslovak Evangelical Church, the Slovak Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession, the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia, the Silesian Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession, the Church of the Brethren, the Unity of Brethren, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Seventh-Day Adventists, the Old

Catholic Church, the New Apostolic Church, the Christian Corps in Czechoslovakia, the Jewish Community and the Czechoslovak Unitarians.

The progressive Catholic clergy has its own voluntary social and group-interest movement, the Pacem in terris association. Christian Unity is an association of members of all the evangelical Churches in Czechoslovakia.

The State has taken over all care for the material needs of the Churches. Members of the clergy are trained at six theological faculties maintained by the State. The State also cares for the maintenance and repair of church buildings.

Through the Central Ecclesiastical Publishing Houses in Prague and Bratislava, the Churches publish their own religious periodicals.

The Judicial System

An important part of the mechanism of the socialist State is formed by the courts and the prosecution system. They protect the State and social system as well as socialist property, the rights and the legitimate interests of citizens and organizations of the working people. In accordance with the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, justice is administered by elected, independent courts. The highest court is the Supreme Court of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, whose task it is to ensure that all courts, in making their decisions, are guided by socialist legality. There are also Supreme Courts in the two national republics. The judicial system also includes regional and district courts and military courts. The democratic character of the socialist judiciary is expressed through the participation of lay judges and social organizations in the activities of the courts, through the principle that proceedings at court are open to the public, through full use of the right to defence and through the principle of elective appointment of judges.

The elective appointment of judges has a different character than the elective appointment of members of representative bodies and their responsibility to the voters. The courts are responsible solely for the consistent observance and enforcement of socialist legality in their activities. Hence the terms of office, election procedures and procedure for recalling judges are different from the rules governing the elections and recall of members of representative bodies.

The Public Prosecution system ensures the unified interpretation and enforcement of socialist legality in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, or — in accordance with the territorial validity of legal provisions — in the Czech or Slovak Socialist Republics. It also supervises the observance and enforcement of laws and other legal regulations by the ministries and other State administrative bodies, National Committees, courts, economic and other organizations, and citizens.

The organizational structure of the prosecution system corresponds with its functions. It is formed by the Office of the Prosecutor General for the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the offices of Regional and District Prosecutors and offices of Higher and District Military Prosecutors.

The Office of the Chief Military Prosecutor is part of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The head of the Czechoslovak prosecution system is the Prosecutor General of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, responsible to the Federal Assembly. He is appointed and recalled by the Czechoslovak President.

The National Security Corps

is the state-wide armed security corps. Its main purpose is to protect the socialist social system and State, maintain public order and ensure the security of persons and of property.

In cooperation with other State bodies, as well as with State-controlled, cooperative and social organizations and individual citizens, the National Security Corps investigates hostile activities directed against the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, as well as other anti-social activities, and helps to eliminate their causes. It endeavours to ensure the consistent observance and strengthening of socialist legality and State discipline.

The Defence of the State

comprises a whole system of measures designed to ensure the protection of the Republic in all spheres of economic and social life, particularly those connected with the Armed Forces and raising their combat readiness.

The Armed Forces are the responsibility of the Czechoslovak Federation. The Czechoslovak People's Army carries on the traditions of the Czechoslovak Army Corps which was created in the Soviet Union and fought in World War II alongside the Soviet Army. The People's Army is an integral part of the Warsaw Treaty alliance, which is the guarantor of the peaceful construction of socialism and relies on the mighty political, economic and military potential of the Soviet Union. The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces is the President of the Republic.

Civil defence is part of the system of national defence, and voluntary social organizations play an important role here carrying out nation-wide defence preparedness programmes including civil defence training among the civilian population.

The protection of the social and State system, the security of the State, socialist property, citizens and their property, and the maintenance of public order are among the main functions of the socialist State.

The Rights and the Duties of Citizens

The basis for the system of civic rights and duties are the fundamental or constitutional rights and duties of citizens as stipulated by the Constitution. The extent and the nature of civic rights and freedoms is developing gradually in connection with the general socialist development of the society.

The fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens are guaranteed by the Czechoslovak Constitution and their realization is ensured by the socialist social system. They may be divided into three main categories:

1. Social rights

— the right to work and to remuneration for work done,
— the right to rest,
— the right to health protection and medical care,
— the right to material benefits in old age and illness,
— the right to education.

The category of social rights also includes the constitutional provision for the protection of motherhood, matrimony and the family, and guarantees of women's equality in the family, at work and in public life. The social rights in Czechoslovakia stem directly from the new social relations expressing the nature of the socialist social order.

2. Political rights and freedoms

— the right to vote,
— freedom of expression,
— freedom of speech and of the press,
— freedom of assembly,
— the right to turn to representative bodies and other State bodies with proposals, suggestions and complaints.

In the socialist State, the political rights and freedoms make possible the development of the individual and his full participation in public life. Through them, the citizens participate in creating and carrying out State policy and in managing and administering State and social affairs.

3. Personal rights and freedoms
- the inviolability of the individual, and of his dwelling,
- secrecy of mail and secrecy of delivered messages,
- freedom of residence,
- freedom of religion.

Socialism is creating objectively favourable conditions for the development of man's capabilities and for voluntary activity at work and in public life. Along with the basic rights and freedoms of citizens, the Constitution also lays down the basic duties, which are inseparably linked with them. Their implementation ensures the flourishing of the entire society, and thereby the all-round development of the individual.

Among the basic duties of citizens are the following:
- to abide by the Constitution and all other laws and to observe the interests of the socialist State and the society,
- to protect and to strengthen socialist ownership,
- to perform all public functions conscientiously and honestly,
- to honour the rights of citizens and to observe the rules of socialist life,
- to defend the country and its socialist system, which is the supreme duty and a matter of honour for every citizen.

FOREIGN POLICY

Czechoslovakia's post-war foreign policy line had already been developed by progressive representatives of our national liberation movement in the course of World War II. This new orientation was based on the historic treaty of alliance between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union signed on December 12, 1943. The treaty laid the basis not only for the new orientation, but also for strengthening the international position of Czechoslovakia. At the same time it created conditions for the post-war reconstruction of the country and its security. It provided guarantees that the tragedy which had led to the extinction of the State on the eve of World War II would never occur again. The final confirmation of this foreign policy orientation came with the victory of the working people under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in February 1948.

Besides the treaty of alliance with the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia also concluded treaties of friendship and cooperation with the other people's democracies in the first years after the war. They enabled Czechoslovakia to settle its inter-State relations with the neighbouring countries once and for all, and removed all obstacles to the development of understanding and the strengthening of fraternal relations and ties of alliance with these countries. The State came to know a new kind of security, security based on qualitatively new principles of equal partnership that was in sharp contrast to the tense relations and endless conflicts with neighbouring countries that had prevailed before the war. The conclusion of treaties of alliance with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the emerging socialist community created a new degree of security and were an important factor in the creation of a stable situation in Central Europe. Thanks to extensive cooperation with the Soviet Union and other allies, Czechoslovakia was able to achieve important successes in reconstructing the country after the war and in laying the groundwork for a socialist society. The increased political, economic and military potential of the socialist community became a reliable guarantee of Czechoslovakia's independence in the "cold war" period. It gave our people a feeling of security in carrying out their peaceful creative work which centred on the construction of the country, and freed them from any fear for the country's future. Czechoslovakia's new position was fully in keeping with both the social and national needs of the people of the country, because it not only guaranteed the security of the State frontiers, but also provided the opportunity for coping with the needs of the society.

The emergence of the world socialist system has made it possible to secure the acceptance of an entirely new concept of international relations, one based on the principles of proletarian internationalism, which unites the national interests of the individual socialist countries with the requirements of the socialist community as a whole. It makes it possible to coordinate international and national principles and standpoints, and respects the age-old aspiration of the nations for peace and progress, national sovereignty and independence. At the same time, however, it ensures fraternal aid and support in solving national problems and assistance in the sphere of national security and independence. This has given rise to a new type of relations between States on the basis of Marxism-Leninism.

The growing political, economic and defence power of the socialist community has also led to a basic change in the balance of forces. It has enabled the principles of peaceful coexistence to be adopted in relations between States with different social systems.

Relying on the massive strength of the socialist community and the firm fraternal ties with the people of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia has been striving to make a worthy contribution

towards the materialization of these principles of peaceful coexistence. The main attention was focused on taking advantage of the new atmosphere in international relations to promote measures that would lead to the strengthening of a lasting peace, the creation of a system of collective security and the halting of the arms race. Czechoslovakia's foreign policy has centred on Europe, because negative developments in this part of the world have always had an adverse effect on the life of the Czechoslovak people. On the other hand, a stable political situation in Europe has always had a beneficial influence on the world in general and has kept the most reactionary forces from unleashing a new world war which, in the present conditions of advanced technology, could only lead to the total destruction of mankind. One specific example of these efforts in the field of foreign policy is the work of Czechoslovak delegations at all international conferences.

Czechoslovakia has also been taking the initiative in making proposals for an improvement of relations with the West European countries, particularly with her neighbours. This positive attitude demonstrated Czechoslovakia's endeavour to overcome the past. Whenever the Czechoslovak initiatives met with a positive response from the other side, promising results have been achieved which make it possible not only to put the past well and truly behind, but also to start a new era of cooperation under changed international conditions which are characterized by a relaxation of tension. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has always made it clear that it would give the most careful consideration to every proposal aimed at consolidating peace and the favourable atmosphere in the world and eliminating conflicts and misunderstandings.

Czechoslovakia fully supports those peoples who are struggling to rid their countries of the last vestiges of colonialism, fascism and racism. The extensive economic cooperation with developing countries helps them strengthen their national independence and overcome their backwardness, build their national industries, education and health systems, and press forward in other important spheres. Of great assistance in this connection is the training in Czechoslovakia of workers from developing countries and the cooperation of Czechoslovak experts in all fields. At the same time, Czechoslovakia also values the contribution made by the developing countries in generating and strengthening an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence and fruitful international cooperation. A review of the development of Czechoslovakia in the past thirty years confirms the correctness of the basic foreign policy orientation and serves as a convincing refutation of the arguments of those forces which, in the years of crisis — 1968 and 1969 — were striving for a reversal of this orientation. This orientation provides a firm basis for the further successful development of the socialist society as well as favourable conditions and security for ensuring that the standard of living of the whole Czechoslovak people is raised.

ECONOMY

The revolutionary changes of 1945, and particularly of 1948, when all power in Czechoslovakia was taken over by the working people led by the Communist Party, marked the establishment of a new — socialist — social order. Between 1945 and 1948, the principal means of production were nationalized, and the principle of cooperative ownership in agriculture began to prevail.

The decisive role of the two main forms of ownership of the means of production — social and group (cooperative) ownership — had a fundamental effect on the direct interest of the working people in economic growth. Their interest takes the form of a steady upsurge of initiative, aimed at achieving systematic production increases and at raising the effectiveness of the national economy as a whole. The initiative of the working people of Czechoslovakia is being purposefully guided to ensure that the interests of society as well as group and personal interests are in harmony.

Planning as an Instrument of Management of the National Economy

The plan-based development of the Czechoslovak economy, resting on social ownership of the means of production, is a characteristic feature and a major advantage of socialism. It is an objective economic law of socialist production. One of the main aspects of its planned character, based on consistent assertion of the leading role of the Communist Party, is that it seeks to attain the socio-economic goals of society and full satisfaction of the growing needs of the working people.

Scientific identification of these needs and efforts to satisfy them are the main prerequisites, as well as starting points, for the drafting and fulfilment of national economic plans.

The national economic plan serves the economic-political aims of socialist society. It forms an internally harmonious system, organizationally unified. The main guidelines for economic development are worked out at Party Congresses, which analyze the level of development that has been reached, and set the principal tasks for the next period.

The State plan of economic development concretizes the economic policy of the Party and the State for a certain period. In this sense, the plan is programmatically superior to all forms of management activity — to the direct and indirect instruments of management which must be based on the plan. It has a unifying role, ensuring unity of all instruments of management. Through the intermediary of economic organs, a certain part of the tasks of the State plan is directly assigned to lower echelons of management, and thus represents one of the direct instruments of management.

The system of national economic plans is formed by the State plan of development of the national economy — the ČSSR, ČSR and SSR plans. The purpose of the federal plan is to ensure an overall development of the national economy, the development of branches and sectors administered by federal bodies, to deal with relationships arising from the distribution of the social product and the national income, to create conditions for an expansion of external economic relations, as well as conditions necessary for the statewide functioning of economic instruments and principles of the single economic policy, and particularly, to take measures designed to create the same conditions and possibilities for the formation and use of the national income in the Czech and the Slovak Socialist Republics.

The plans of the two national republics provide for, in accordance with the binding proportions of the federal plan, economic development of the ČSR and the SSR, especially the development

of the branch and dimensional structure of the national economies, and of the tertiary sphere.

The system of national economic plans also includes the State budgets of the Federation and of the two republics; the budgets form the basis of a comprehensive system of identification and satisfaction of the financial needs of the whole society. The federal budget carries out on a nation-wide scale, by concentrating funds and reserves, the uniform budgetary policy in all key branches and sectors of the national economy, and determines investments of a developmental character, the shaping of all-state proportions, etc.

The system of national economic plans is supplemented by the monetary plan of the ČSSR, which also includes the foreign exchange plan. An important role in the whole system is played by the economic plans of management bodies and socialist organizations, within their terms of reference. At the level of central bodies, they are aimed at ensuring the attainment of the goals and fulfilment of the tasks of the State plan, the State budgets, the monetary plan and the regional plans. They provide comprehensive guidelines for the development and activities of subordinate organs and organizations, and ensure concretization of the principles of the economic policy of the State, and its implementation.

Regional plans provide for a rational deployment of the forces of production, coordinated development of the various areas, and optimal utilization of their natural and economic potential; they include tasks and economic instruments differentiated according to the specific conditions in branches, sectors and regions.

The detailed specification of the economic policy in the system of national economic plans — from the basic parameters of economic growth down to detailed plans for production branches, sectors and enterprises — makes it possible to specialize production, with a view to cutting down social costs and meeting fully the requirements of the national economy. It is a precondition for stable, direct economic relationships between socialist organizations, helping to ensure effective national economic proportions and progressive structural changes in social production.

The time structure of the national economic plans is in accordance with the required evenness of the reproduction process, and particularly with the functioning of its various elements in various periods of time. Long-term outlook plans, medium-term plans and operational plans are used in Czechoslovakia. The long-term outlook up to 1990, being drawn up at present, is a complex of basic concepts of the development of key areas of the national economy. Its main purpose is to raise the standard of living and to improve living conditions, to ensure utilization of natural and other resources, to carry out structural and qualitative changes of the production-technical base, primarily in connection with scientific and technical progress, and to raise the effectiveness of the national economy, in line with the expanding international division of labour and progressing socialist economic integration.

The medium-term (five-year) plans lay down the basic aims and tasks of economic and social development within the fundamental external and internal context, and define ways of reaching the targets. The goals and tasks of the plan are binding for the medium-term plans of the national republics, and for the operational federal-level plans. The operational (annual) plans specify the tasks of the medium-term plan, and ensure its implementation. Their chief purpose is to maintain economic growth in equilibrium.

A recently added feature of the State plan is the phased introduction of structural changes in production, in accordance with the policy of the State, drawn up with respect to the requirements of international socialist integration of the CMEA countries. Since 1973, special planning was done and comprehensive measures taken to carry out key development programmes as major projects of international socialist integration, and to restrict production programmes that objectively do not have good prospects; all this is carried out simultaneously with efforts to ensure plan-based development of the other sectors of the national economy.

The present era of scientific-technological progress, the application of major technical and scientific discoveries, and the need to pursue a structural, selective policy of economic development require that planning be done for longer periods ahead. This is why a system of long-term development planning is to be introduced in Czechoslovakia, as an esential prerequisite for the already initiated restructuring of the national economy, for raising its growth rate, and for stronger, goal-oriented management of the country's socialist development.

Czechoslovakia and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

A factor of exceptional importance for the national economic development of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is her participation in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), which was established in 1949. Czechoslovakia was one of its founding members together with the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. The establishment of the CMEA was an important milestone in the political and economic development of its member states. It was subsequently joined by the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Cuba, and thereby became an organization of countries representing an integrated economic complex within the framework of which Czechoslovakia can satisfy her economic needs.

In the first period of its activities, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance concentrated mainly on the development of foreign trade, scientific and technical cooperation and the exchange of technological information. The exchange of goods between the member countries increased by 85 per cent by 1955. Exchanges were also developing in the field of scientific and technological knowledge, know-how and documentation, all of which contributed to the construction of new factories, the introduction of new production programmes and a speeding up of the whole process of industrialization.

The turnover of Czechoslovak foreign trade with the CMEA countries increased by 84 per cent between 1950 and 1955. Czechoslovakia's main imports from the CMEA member states were raw materials, other material and foodstuffs, while the chief exports included machinery and equipment. The wide marketing possibilities in the CMEA countries helped to bring about a rapid expansion of the Czechoslovak metallurgical industry, engineering industry and fuel industry. Czechoslovakia's total industrial output in 1955 was 2.2 times as great as in 1949, while the country's engineering production increased 3.4 times.

The activities of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance contributed to important successes in the national economic development of the member countries. The national income of this community of states in 1972 was roughly 5.5 times higher than in 1950, and industrial output in the same period was about 8 times as great. The per capita volume of industrial output was more than three times the world average. The technological standard of production had also increased.

Economic, scientific and technological coopereration within the framework of the CMEA not only provided Czechoslovakia with the opportunity to carry out its economic development free of crises, but also became one of the essential prerequisites for the harmonious and dynamic growth of Czechoslovakia's economy.

Czechoslovakia participates, within the framework of the CMEA, in all forms of cooperation. The coordination of national economic plans

which always leads to the conclusion of five-year trade agreements with the individual member countries, has made it possible to harmonize the construction of new factories and the development of production with the needs of the other countries, and as a result, to bring about a great improvement in the effectiveness of economic development. The same holds true for specialization and cooperation in production, especially in the engineering and chemical industries, which has enabled Czechoslovakia to gradually eliminate unprofitable production programmes, concentrate resources on a narrower range of products and thus achieve higher effectiveness, especially by raising the technological level and the quality of products.

On the basis of her extensive scientific and technological cooperation, Czechoslovakia has learned a great deal from other countries in many branches of production and, in particular, gained a great deal of know-how in the fields of designing, production and technology.

By cooperating with the CMEA member countries in the development of raw material resources through credits, Czechoslovakia has secured long-term deliveries of many important raw materials: crude oil, coal, iron ore, non-ferrous metals, sulphur, potash, natural gas, pulpwood etc.

Czechoslovakia participates in the construction of all important joint projects and in the establishment of international organizations and production associations of the CMEA member countries: the "Friendship" oil-pipeline, the "Fraternity" gas-pipeline, the integrated „Peace" power grid, the long-distance "Transgas" natural gas-pipeline, the Orenburg gas-pipeline, the jointly-operated stock of railway wagons, the unified container transport system, the International Bank for Economic Cooperation, the International Investment Bank, Interelectro, Interatomenergo, Intertextilmash, Interatominstrument, Intermetall, etc.

Czechoslovakia's trade with the CMEA member countries covers the major part of her necessary imports of raw materials, other material and foodstuffs and, in recent years, of her imports of certain machines and equipment as well. On the other hand, Czechoslovakia is an important supplier of machinery and equipment, as well as of certain raw materials and consumer goods, to other CMEA countries.

Czechoslovakia's active participation in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and in carrying out the measures arising from the Comprehensive Programme for Socialist Economic Integration guarantees the effective development of her national economy and represents a reliable means of solving the qualitatively new tasks of economic development.

The Comprehensive Programme for the Further Intensification and Improvement of Cooperation and for the Development of the Socialist Economic Integration of the CMEA member states, which was adopted at the 25th CMEA session in 1971, is an important document whose implementation will have a substantial influence on the economies of both the individual member countries and the socialist community as a whole. In addition to setting forth the main principles of socialist integration, the Comprehensive Programme comprises a whole complex of measures that are to be gradually implemented in the spheres of coordination of economic policy, planning activities, science and technology, foreign trade, foreign exchange and finance, direct relations between the various bodies and organizations of the member states, the establishment of international economic associations and joint enterprises, standardization and the improving of the legal bases of mutual cooperation.

Socialist economic integration is of exceptional political and economic importance for the national economy of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, which is an integral part of the world socialist system and which is very closely linked with the economies of the CMEA states. The Comprehensive Programme for the Further Intensification and Improvement of Cooperation and the Development of the Socialist Economic Integration of the CMEA countries therefore represents one of the main bases for planning and managing the long-range economic development of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic for the next 15 to 20 years.

Industry

Industry has the leading place in the Czechoslovak economy. It accounts for more than 60 per cent of the national income, and industrial enterprises employ about 2,750,000 people.

After the end of World War II in 1945, the country inherited a very fragmented and outdated production basis. After its nationalization, industry was gradually concentrated, and effective and modern industrial large-scale production developed. At the same time, industrialization was started in Slovakia, which in the days of the bourgeois Republic was a very backward territory, with virtually no job opportunities and, consequently, a high rate of emigration.

The socialist society, headed by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, rectified the mistakes of the previous society and the Slovak Socialist Republic now has a very important share of the Czechoslovak national economy.

The whole period of socialist construction in Czechoslovakia has been characterized by a gradual equalization of the level of industrial and agricultural production in Slovakia and the Czech lands. This has been done in order to create a uniform, strong and dynamically developing economy, the material basis of the two equal nations — the Czechs and the Slovaks.

Projects completed within the framework of Slovakia's industralization include, for instance, the large metallurgical complexes of the East

Slovakian Iron and Steel Works in Košice and the aluminium works at Žiar nad Hronom, chemical enterprises such as Slovnaft in Bratislava (oil-refining) and Chemlon at Humenné (synthetic fibres), the heavy engineering works at Martin and in other cities which produce locomotives, loaders, cranes, ships, etc. New electrical engineering works have been built which produce TV sets, radio sets, and communication equipment.

Industrial output in Czechoslovakia is nine times higher than in 1937 or 1948. The fastest growth has been registered by the chemical industry (index 2075 in 1973 as compared with 1948) and the engineering industry (index 1796).

The index of labour productivity in industry in 1973 was 512 as compared with 1948. This growth was mainly due to the wider use of machinery — the volume of fixed assets in 1973 was about three times higher than in 1948.

Czechoslovakia at present is producing goods worth more than 800,000 million crowns every year.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has a powerful production base. Annualy it produces more than 12 million tons of steel and over 110 million tons of coal. Electrical power output exceeds 50,000 million kWh, more than one million tons of sulphuric acid is produced, the output of nitrogen and phosphorus supplying fertilizers is about 700,000 tons and cement production ranges around 8 million tons.

From the point of view of per capita production Czechoslovakia ranks about 14th in the world in electrical power output (and 10th in Europe), 7th in hard coal production (4th in Europe), 2nd in brown coal production and 4th in crude iron and steel production (3rd in Europe). It holds one of the leading positions in sulphuric acid production, lst place in the production of cotton fabrics and one of the leading positions in the production of woollen fabrics.

Czechoslovakia's insufficient raw material resources are supplemented by imports, especially from the Soviet Union, which supplies crude oil, natural gas, iron ore, cotton and many other important raw materials. The USSR is the country's largest commercial partner for manufactured goods as well as the largest supplier of raw materials.

At the present time, Czechoslovakia's industry, guided by a resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, is working for further improvement in the quality of production and in its effectiveness, the innovation process is being speeded up and science and research are being applied more intensively in production. The present stage of development carries on the best results attained by Czechoslovak industry in past years. Since the 1950's, Czechoslovakia has been producing wrist-watches, her own tools with Czechoslovak synthetic diamonds, and synthetic "Barex" leather for the manufacture of footwear. Czechoslovak industry also participates, through its scientific apparatus, in the joint programme of the CMEA countries for the exploration of outer space (the Intercosmos projects).

In the past three years, the new, socialist attitude of the working people to the society has been developing even more powerfully, in the form of socialist emulation and through the growth of all-round initiative.

The *mining industry* accounts for only about 5.5 per cent of Czechoslovakia's total industrial output. The largest share — about 4.1 per cent — is held by the fuel industry. About 90 per cent of the annual output of some 80 million tons of brown coal is obtained from open-cast sites. Coal-bearing areas in southern Moravia and in Slovakia produce about 4 million tons of lignite per year.

Underground mines produce about 30 million tons of hard coal annually, mostly coking coal.

The main mining area is the Ostrava district, which produces 28 million tons; more than two million tons are mined in the Kladno district and about half a million tons per year come from the Trutnov, Plzeň and Brno districts.

The neighbourhood of Hodonín and Gbely includes small oil-fields where production ranges around 200,000 tons per year.

Several places in Czechoslovakia yield uranium.

As regards domestic ores, the annual production of iron ore is about 1.5 million tons, pyrites and a small amount of ores yielding certain other non-ferrous metals are also mined.

Czechoslovakia also has rich domestic resources of glass sand, kaolin and other raw materials for the glass, ceramics and porcelain industries; the country's raw material base for the production of building materials is also more than sufficient.

The expansion of the *pover and fuel* base, which slowed down to a certain extent in the 1960's, is one of the fundamental tasks set by the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. The allocations made for this purpose in the period of the Fifth Five-Year Plan are the highest of all the expenditures earmarked for investments.

The total capacity of the power generating stations in Czechoslovakia is about 13,000 megawatts (MW), most of which (over 11,000 MW) comes from steam power plants. They consume about 20 per cent of the annual output of hard coal and nearly 50 per cent of the annual output of brown coal. Considerable further quantities of coal are used by Czechoslovak industry for the production of steam for heating and industrial purposes as well as for the production of coal-gas.

The steam power plants are located mostly near the fuel sources — in northern and western Bohemia, southern Moravia, and the western part of Slovakia. Additional power plants are under construction in eastern Bohemia and near Mělník; electricity generation in these power plants will be based on brown-coal shipped there at low cost on the Labe river. Another electrical power plant at Vojany in eastern Slovakia is partly dependent on oil supplied by the nearby oil-pipeline from the Soviet Union.

The hydro-electrical power plants that have been built at artificial water reservoirs — dams on the Vltava, Váh and other rivers — are usually used only at times of peak power consumption so as to maintain water-levels. The same will hold true for the pumped storage plants at Dalešice and Liptovská Mara, which are among the capital construction projects listed specifically at the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Since 1973, electricity has been also supplied to the electrical power network by Czechoslovakia's first nuclear power station, which was built with Soviet assistance at Jaslovské Bohunice in Slovakia. Although the classic steam power plants will continue to serve for many years to come as the most important source of electrical power in Czechoslovakia, the era of nuclear power has already been successfully initiated in Czechoslovakia and further nuclear power stations, which are to be built with the assistance of the Soviet Union, will become an important source of energy for the Czechoslovak national economy.

The gas industry in Czechoslovakia produces its own coal-gas but a network of gas pipelines carrying natural gas supplied to Czechoslovakia through the international gas-pipeline from the Soviet Union is being extended throughout the whole territory of the country.

This gas is not only used as a source of energy, but at the same time it represents an important raw material for the Czechoslovak chemical industry.

The Czechoslovak power system is connected with the power systems of the other socialist countries, thus forming the Integrated "Peace" Power

Grid. This facilitates mutual assistance among the socialist countries at times of peak power consumption or in the event of breakdowns.

Metallurgy. Ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy has a long-standing tradition in Czechoslovakia. The national enterprises at Ostrava-Kunčice, Ostrava-Vítkovice, Třinec, Kladno, Košice, Podbrezová, Chomutov, Žiar nad Hronom and a number of other places are carrying on this tradition. The metallurgical industry now accounts for more than 12 per cent of the total industrial output of the country. Czechoslovakia's annual output of crude iron exceeds 8 million tons; together with steel scrap, this yields more than 12 million tons of steel, produced mostly in open hearth furnaces. The output of rolled stock is about 9 million tons, and more than one million tons steel tubes are produced at the VTŽ Works in Chomutov and in other enterprises. The Czechoslovak metal factories also produce annually about 50,000 tons of aluminium, some 20,000 tons of copper and lead, etc.

The main tasks facing the metallurgical industry at present are to make better use of existing blast furnaces and to cut down the power consumption in steel and iron production. The East Slovakian Iron and Steel Works at Košice, which was built in the 1960's within the framework of the industrialization of Slovakia and which has become the largest metallurgical complex in the Republic, is being expanded. A new steel plant of the SONP steel works in Kladno is under construction at Dřísy, where high-grade steel will be manufactured in electrical furnaces.

The effectiveness of the metallurgical industry is being raised in every respect, both by improvements in the production process and by the transition to finished products of higher quality. The rolling mills are gradually switching over to the production of thin-walled and other modern steel products. The share of thin surface-treated sheets and extra-hard and corrosion-proof kinds of steel is also rising.

The metallurgical industry supplies most of the material required by the Czechoslovak engineering industry and, in addition to this, exports a considerable part of its products — especially rolled stock — to both socialist and capitalist countries.

Chemical Industry. The chemical industry is experiencing the highest rate of growth in the current Five-Year Plan period; this means that its present share (about 8 per cent) in Czechoslovakia's total industrial output will increase considerably. The 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia called on the chemical industry to raise its output in the course of the Five-Year Plan period by 55—60 per cent, and investments of a developmental character are to be concentrated in particular on oil-processing and on the expansion of the petrochemical industry. Oil, which is carried to Czechoslovakia through the oil pipeline from the Soviet Union, is processed not only at the huge Slovnaft chemical works in Bratislava but also at the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Chemical Works in Záluží, at the rubber works in Kralupy nad Vltavou, at the mineral oil refineries in Ostrava, Kolín and Pardubice and in other chemical factories.

The production of synthetic fibres for the textile industry will be more than doubled in the course of this Five-Year Plan period. The Chemlon Works in Humenné, eastern Slovakia, which is now being expanded, is responsible for the major share of this increase. The output of plastics is being doubled, and farmers will be supplied with more than twice the amount of granulated compound fertilizers, much of which is produced at the new compound fertilizer plant of the VCHZ Chemical Works in Pardubice.

The production of automobile tyres has risen sharply since the opening of a new tyre plant at Otrokovice, and the production of tyres for lorries and buses at the "May Day" Rubber Factory in Púchov is also increasing.

The Czechoslovak chemical industry has also won an international reputation for its high-quality pharmaceutical products, chemicals for agriculture and many other products; the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia also set challenging quantitative and qualitative tasks in these fields of production, and they are now being successfully fulfilled.

Engineering. The Czechoslovak engineering industry accounts for about 30 per cent of the total industrial output of the country. The engineering branches are continuing to offer their wide range of traditional production programmes and at the same time are developing new, progressive production programmes.

The Czechoslovak engineering and metal-working industry currently manufactures more than 75 per cent of products available in this field on the world market. Its traditional production programme which includes sugar-refineries, breweries and other complete plant equipment, has been extended and now comprises chemical and petrochemical equipment, including oil-refineries, highly efficient industrial fertilizer plants and equipment for the manufacture and processing of plastics.

The sector making machine-tools, which are traditionally exported to many countries of the world, has extended its range of general-purpose machines by the addition of machine tools with NC-programming and integrated production sections. In addition to the expansion of the production of shaping machines, great advances also have been made in the production of foundry equipment; for example, Czechoslovak pressure-casting machines have been installed at the Soviet automobile works in Togliatti.

The Czechoslovak engineering industry supplies the Czechoslovak fuel base as well as foreign markets with giant bucket-wheel excavators that have an earth-moving capacity of up to 10,000 cubic meters per hour. Enterprises making electrical machinery supply steam turbines with an output of 50, 110, 200 and, most recently, 500 MW. The Škoda Works in Plzeň and other Czechoslovak enterprises supply technical equipment for the nuclear power stations of the CMEA countries.

Within the framework of the heavy engineering industry created in the post-war period in Slovakia, unparalleled growth has been attained in the building of passenger ships and freighters for river transport at the Komárno shipyards near Bratislava; large numbers of these ships are supplied to the Soviet Union. Shipyards located in Prague export suction dredges, the ČKD Works in Prague produce and export Diesel ship-engines with an output of several thousand HP, and the VŽKG Iron and Steel Works in Ostrava is one of Europe's leading producers of forged crankshafts for the shipping industry in other countries.

Czechoslovak enterprises produce a wide range of vehicles running from bicycles and ČZ and JAWA motorcycles to cars and lorries, as well as training jet aircraft. Over 3,000 L-29's — the older model of these planes — were produced for export to a great many countries; the newer model now being made (L-39) is equipped with a wide range of electronic devices. The Czechoslovak aircraft industry also produces small transport turbo-jet planes (L-410).

A very extensive branch of the engineering industry is that producing agricultural machinery; in this field, Czechoslovakia cooperates with Poland, the German Democratic Republic and other countries, and the main products include a wide range of wheeled Zetor tractors, sugar-beet seed drilling machines and sugar-beet harvesters, forage harvesters and many other kinds of farm machinery.

For the mechanized handling of material, many countries use Czechoslovak-made "Desta" high-lift trucks, whose performance standard is on a par with the world's best. The Czechoslovak engineering industry also supplies many other kinds of handling equipment, including building and truck-mounted cranes, building machinery, earth-moving machinery and efficient loaders.

Czechoslovakia also produces Diesel and electric locomotives, including double-current locomotives, that can be used for both alternating and direct-current traction. In view of her large deliveries to the USSR and the GDR, the country is now the world's largest producer of trams. The Czechoslovak textile machine industry has a highly important position and enjoys a world-wide reputation. It still exports conventional shuttle-looms, but its most successful achievement has been to develop and put into production Czechoslovak inventions — pneumatic jet looms, hydraulic looms and shuttleless spinning frames. Licences to produce these machines have been sold to Japan, the United States, the FRG and other countries. The Czechoslovak textile machinery industry is also making gripper looms of its own design. Exports to many countries also include knitting machines, pirn winders and many other products, including cloth printing machines.

One of the most rapidly expanding branches of the Czechoslovak engineering industry is the electrical engineering sector. It engages in the production of a wide range of electrical equipment, including power plants for heavy machinery, transformers and miniature electric motors for dental drills. In addition to automation and control devices, Czechoslovak enterprises also produce third-generation computers including the necessary peripheral equipment for the Unified Computer System of the CMEA countries; the components are also made in this country. Other articles supplied to many countries include Czechoslovak radio transmitters and electrical consumer goods.

During the period of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the output of the engineering industry will rise by nearly 50 per cent; this is to be accompanied by a simultaneous growth in the quality of its products. Key development programmes have been worked out for the engineering branches for the faster expansion of which Czechoslovakia has the necessary prerequisites, i. e. electronics, electrical engineering, agricultural machinery, lorries and cars, complete technological equipment for the extraction of fuels, machinery for the textile, footwear and plastics industries, as well as building and road-building machinery.

Another task to be fulfilled is a further intensification of scientific and technological cooperation, as well as of cooperation in production within the framework of the CMEA, and an intensification of specialization in production on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements. This expansion of production — which is being pursued in all the CMEA countries on a planned basis — opens up great prospects for Czechoslovakia as well.

The Building Materials Industry. The building materials industry is well established in Czechoslovakia. Deposits of brick-clay and limestone and a good supply of blast furnace slag and other raw materials long since led to many brickyards and lime-works being set up throughout the Republic. The old brickyards were modernized after the war and several modern brickyards have been built in recent years; they concentrate mainly on the production of thin sections of kilned wall-building material. Newly completed projects include several important limestone and cement works (with additional ones in hand), while the expanding use of prefabricated parts in construction is reflected in a growing network of plants making prefabricated parts for housing and capital construction. Granite, sandstone and other kinds of rock for building and sculptural purposes are found in northern Bohemia, the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands and several other districts, and production also includes considerable quantities of light-weight synthetic materials. The building materials industry, which is directed by the Czech and the Slovak Ministries of the Building Industry, contributes nearly 4 per cent to Czechoslovakia's total industrial output and thus represents a solid material base for the further construction of the socialist State. The expansion of the building materials industry in the period of the Fifth Five-Year Plan concentrates mainly on an extension of production on the basis of silicate raw materials, and a rapid growth is being recorded in the production of cement and porous concrete wall materials. At the same time, production of traditional building materials is also rising. The tasks set by the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia for the building materials industry include a considerable growth in the extraction and treatment of non-metallic raw materials for other branches of the national economy.

Woodworking, Pulp and Paper Industry. The woodworking, pulp and paper industry makes full use of the country's extensive resources of timber in order to fulfil its tasks at home and meet the considerable demand for exports. One of the targets set by the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is to gradually reduce exports of timber in its original state and to sell on the world market finished products, i. e. articles ranging from matches to such renowned musical instruments as the Petrof pianos. The woodworking plants are therefore being continually modernized, and new ones are being built which concentrate mainly on making large-size products — plywood and particle boards.

Like the woodworking factories, the traditional pulp and paper mills are located near the sources of the raw material, especially in the forest regions along the Bohemian and Slovak borders. An exception to this is Czechoslovakia's largest pulp and paper processing combine at Štětí north of Prague which is currently being expanded. This will enable it to replace several outdated pulp mills that are major polluters of the upper reaches of the Labe and Vltava rivers. The new pulp and paper mills — whether in Bohemia, Moravia or Slovakia — already have a technically improved water economy system and waste-water is not released into the rivers in quantity. In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, development in this branch, too, is being carried out in such a way as to make possible improvements in the environment and minimize any damage to it. The socialist State sets aside large sums for research into the utilization of waste-water and for the construction of purification plants.

The glass, ceramics and porcelain industry has been world-famous for a long time. However, in addition to producing crystal ware and costume jewellery (which is frequently virtually indistinguishable from works of art), Czechoslovakia has also a highly developed industry making industrial and utility glassware ranging from equipment for chemical laboratories to building units, glass piping for flour mills and the laminated glass cabs of electric locomotives.

The main centres of the glass industry are concentrated in certain traditional towns in northern and central Bohemia — Jablonec nad Nisou, Nový Bor, Poděbrady, Světlá nad Sázavou, and Karlovy Vary — and in certain towns in Slovakia. The production of costume jewellery has spread from northern Bohemia to Moravia and Slovakia.

The centre of the ceramics industry is in southern Moravia — at Znojmo — and (together with the porcelain industry) in western Bohemia.

The most successful products of this branch of industry include the traditional wall-tiles of Rakovník, as well as the traditional and modern dinner-ware and tea and coffee services of Carlsbad (Karlovy Vary) porcelain. This industry, too, makes use of domestic resources and exports processed raw materials.

The textile industry is unquestionably the oldest in Czechoslovakia. When it began to develop at the turn of the 18th century — first in the form of domestic workshops and later of factories — it was concentrated in those areas of the Austrian Empire that lacked favourable conditions for a major development of agriculture: northern Bohemia, northern Moravia and Silesia. The industry at that time was based on the expansion of flax-growing and much of the linen that was produced went to supply not only the other parts of the Empire but also such countries as Holland and England. Gradually, the cloth industry and other textile branches also began to develop in Bohemia and Moravia.

After World War II, when the socialist construction of the country was beginning, the nationalized textile industry inherited a highly fragmented production base — century-old buildings, outdated and heterogeneous machinery and factories that, from the point of view of the location of the labour force, were unsatisfactorily situated.

The development of the textile industry in recent years has been marked by both reconstruction and modernization. The enterprises are being equipped with Czechoslovak and foreign machinery of the highest quality, and the shuttleless spinning of cotton and the use of blended fibres are becoming increasingly common.

Automation reduces the demand for labour and the multi-purpose character of the machinery as well as the rich experience of the people working in the textile industry are enabling this branch to react more promptly to the changing demands of the Czechoslovak and world markets.

The Czechoslovak textile industry not only supplies the demands of the home market, but has also met with great success in its foreign trade with the socialist, capitalist and developing countries. It depends mainly on imports for its natural raw materials. Its needs for cotton are covered by purchases from the Soviet Union and other countries, especially the Arab states, and it also imports wool and certain new synthetic fibres. Imports of jute for the manufacture of fabrics utilized as packing material are being replaced to a certain extent by polyethylene and polypropylene and the Czechoslovak chemical industry also supplies the textile factories with a great many synthetic fibres — viscose rayon polyamide, polyester and others. The textile, chemical and engineering industries are working together on the development and production of shaped synthetic fibres with better properties, and the production of highly promising new fabrics from synthetic fibres blended with cotton, wool and flax is also expanding.

The textile industry has a relatively large share — about 5.5 per cent — in Czechoslovakia's total industrial output and is consequently considered one of the country's leading industries. It is divided into the linen, jute, cotton and wool enterprises. A special group are enterprises making knitted goods. The major concentration of textile factories is to be found in the traditional areas of northern and north-eastern Bohemia, though many new factories have been built in Slovakia and in areas where there is a concentration of heavy and engineering industries in order to eliminate disproportions between available labour resources and the needs for labour, and to provide adequate jobs for men and women.

The textile industry has increased its output by two thirds since 1960. Production is more than four times what it was in 1948. The most dynamic growth has taken place in the knitting trade and in the manufacture of household textiles.

Ready-to-wear clothing. The ready-to-wear clothing industry forms an independent sector. Its products are worn by more than 80 per cent of the population and exports are considerable.

Annual fashion-shows to display the creativity of the designers and the high quality of ready-to-wear clothing, as well as the range of materials offered by the textile enterprises are held at the international consumer goods spring fair in Brno, and the national fair at Liberec as well as at Trenčín — "The City of Fashion" — in Slovakia.

The enterprises and factories of the ready-to-wear clothing industry, like those of the textile industry, are mostly located close to the available sources of female labour: Vimperk in southern Bohemia, Prague, Cvikov in northern Bohemia, the West Bohemian districts, the clothing centre of Prostějov, the Slovak towns of Trenčín, Púchov and elsewhere. Their assortment includes goods ranging from underwear to outer garments, and even includes sports-parachutes.

Leather, Footwear and Furs. The Czechoslovak leather-working, footwear and fur industry has had to adapt to the growing shortage of natural hides throughout the world. New methods are being sought for making better use of the natural raw material, e. g. splitting the hides more accurately. Film-printing and other new procedures are used to raise the value of domestic material for the fur industry, and new kinds of synthetic leather are being developed. For several years now, footwear and fancy goods have been made of Czechoslovak poromeric synthetic "Barex" leather, while synthetic materials based on polyvinylchloride and polyurethan are used for clothing.

All this has resulted from the scientific and technological revolution in this branch; for example, besides exclusive fur coats made of mink, sealskin or Persian lamb, the fur industry has also been successful in making fur coats of rabbit skins treated by the film printing method, which can be sold at very low prices.

The footwear industry, which is known abroad by its trade-mark, CEBO, is concentrated around Gottwaldov, in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands and in Slovakia at Partizánské and Bardejov. The high quality of the standard, mass-produced footwear has earned the Czechoslovak footwear industry an enviable reputation in many countries throughout the world.

The Food Industry. The Czechoslovak food industry depends heavily on the favourable results of socialist large-scale production in agriculture. Its share — nearly 16 per cent — in Czechoslovakia's total industrial output makes it one of the most important sectors. In terms of output and range of its products, this industry fully meets the needs of Czechoslovakia's population; in addition, some of its top-quality products are traditionally exported, e. g. beer, ham, etc.

The assortment of foodstuffs is constantly being expanded. Great attention is given to food for diabetics. Consumers are showing more and more interest in the new weight-reducing products.

Of the many special features of the Czechoslovak food industry, one that should be emphasized is the very strict system of State testing and State inspection, designed to ensure that certain standards of quality are both met and maintained. The great care given to the quality of products designed for children, especially milk powder for babies, is of particular importance, and unique in the world.

The food industry is being systematically modernized. Beginning with the first post-war years, new milk and meat processing plants, highly efficient production lines for bakery products, enterprises manufacturing non-alcoholic drinks, vegetable cooking oils, etc., have been built and put into operation throughout the Czech and the Slovak Socialist Republics.

The 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia stipulated that the increase in the consumption of essential foodstuffs must be covered from the country's own production. The food industry is therefore adapting itself to the rate of growth of large-scale production in agriculture.

Agriculture

The post-war period demonstrated a unity of interests of the working class and working farmers with respect to the main aspects of the structural order of Czechoslovak society, and of its internal and external political development. In spite of this, it was necessary to do much in order to free the working farmers from the influence of the bourgeoisie, and to win them over as loyal allies of the working class in the struggle for society's future. It was necessary to resolve, step by step but systematically, the problems of the working farmers, on the basis of a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the socio-economic structure in the village, and of the existing class contradictions.

Progressive development made it necessary to fully meet the democratic demands of the working farmers and of the people in general, demands which the bourgeoisie did not want and could not satisfy. In the given stage of social development, the basic prerequisite of the alliance of the working class and the farmers rested in a thorough solution to the question of land ownership, in a land reform. A principal role in carrying out the land reform was played by Peasant Commissions, democratically elected bodies of the people.

Under a presidential decree, 2.95 million hectares of land were expropriated in the first stage; of this area, farm land totalled 1.65 million hectares. This returned to Czech and Slovak farmers all land

seized by the fascists, their domestic collaborators and foreign nobility during the occupation.

The confiscated land was distributed among 303,000 landless and small farmers. This stage of the land reform considerably altered the socio-economic structure of the Czechoslovak village. The number of medium farmers rose, the number of farm workers and farmers with less than five hectares of land fell. Thirteen hectares of land was set as a maximum for one farmer to work in the resettled areas.

The second stage of the land reform, which the Communist Party had to push through against considerable opposition on the part of reaction, was designed to redress the fraud committed after World War I against the working farmers by big agrarian and financial capital in the form of the so-called land reform.

After the liberation in 1945, there were still 140,000 farmers in Czechoslovakia (only 1 per cent of all farms) who owned 20 per cent of all farm land. Under pressure of a farmers' movement, led by the Communist Party, a law providing for a revision of the bourgeois land reform was passed on June 11, 1947. But because of the opposition and sabotage by the bourgeoisie and its representatives in the Government, it was only after February 1948 — when power was taken over once and for all by the working people — that the revision of the land reform was actually carried out. It applied to 966,714 hectares (of which 227,025 hectares were farm land), and this marked the virtual elimination of all large estates.

All the main programmatic tasks of the Communist Party's agricultural policy, aimed at improving substantially the social status of the working farmers, were fulfilled, but farm land remained fragmented. It was evident, from the economic point of view, that small-scale agricultural production was incapable of meeting the rising consumption of food and farm produce, and that employment in agriculture was excessively high.

The small-scale character of agricultural production was also at variance with the need to build a strong socialist society, based on a uniform socialist economy, developing in a planned manner. They only way of achieving a revolutionary transformation of the village was to carry out a phased transition from small units farmed by individuals to agricultural collective large-scale production, in accordance with the needs and interests of the farmers themselves. These interests are best served by the socialist cooperative system of agriculture, suitably combining, on democratic principles, the interests of the farmers and the other working people, and constituting an integral part of the development of a socialist society.

The political line of building a socialist cooperative agriculture was given legal expression in the Unified Agricultural Cooperatives Act of February 25, 1949.

Unified agricultural cooperatives grouped, on a voluntary basis, farmers who subscribed to the principle of cooperative agriculture, as well as the already existing but heterogenous cooperatives (machinery, poultry, pasture, dairy, etc.).

Up to the late 1950's, the number of the JZD's (agricultural cooperatives) continued to grow, as did their membership and land base. In 1960, their development took a qualitative turn: the JZD's began to merge gradually into larger units, according to local conditions. On the basis of concentration, specialization and use of up-to-date large-scale production technologies, conditions were created for a better organizational structure of socialist large-scale agricultural production.

The JZD's constitute, by their number and the area of farm land, the decisive part of the agricultural large-scale production system. In the past 25 years, they have undergone a fast development, from small units of several dozen hectares to the present large units, averaging 900—1100 hectares of land. With systematic support by the State, the agricultural cooperatives have consolidated their

operations, acquired highly qualified managerial cadres, and have become attractive for young workers. Today, the JZD's produce the overwhelming part of the State food funds.

The establishment of State farms was an integral part of the socialist reconstruction of Czechoslovakia's agriculture. On January 1, 1973, the State farms totalled 1.439,550 hectares, i.e. 20.3 per cent of all farm land in the country; they accounted for 16 per cent of gross agricultural pruduction, and for 19 per cent of farm produce supplied to the State market funds. The State farms also serve as an example of the build-up of the material-technical base of concentrated, specialized agricultural large-scale production. Complex systems of large--scale production technologies in the various agricultural lines are tested and used in the State farms.

The socialist reconstruction of the village, essentially completed in ten years, has strengthened and deepened the alliance of the working class and the working farmers, and the unity of their political interests. In the course of the reconstruction, the structure of the workers-farmers union and the status of agriculture in society have undergone a qualitative change. Private farmers have been replaced by a new class of cooperative farmers. Instead of more than one million small agricultural units, with land fragmented into 33 million lots, there is now a socialist large-scale production system. The contradiction between the socialist development of industrial large-scale production and the private, fragmented small-scale agricultural production has been overcome.

The socialist restructuring of agriculture was carried out with substantial help from the working class, which played a major political and economic role in establishing and consolidating the agricultural cooperatives.

In the newly emerging cooperatives, conditions did not exist at first for their ownership of a full line of machinery. For this reason, the socialist State assigned the substantial part of tractors and other farm machinery to the State tractor stations, which were being set up as of 1949. This was a factor of decisive importance in the development of agricultural production: the State tractor stations took part in the mechanization programme in both crops and livestock production, handled repair and maintenance work, provided advisory services, and helped the JZD's organize and manage their operations.

In 1950, there were 25,839 tractors in Czechoslovak agriculture; in 1959, their number had risen to 62,867, in addition to dozens of thousands of other machines, necessary for large-scale production. The per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers has grown 3.3 times in the course of socialist construction.

The transition to socialist large-scale production has brought increased productivity, better working conditions, and higher output.

The process of putting agriculture on a socialist cooperative basis, and the establishment of State farms marked the first stage of concentration of agricultural production into larger units, and laid the foundations for a system of socialist large-scale agricultural production.

At present, the socialist agricultural large-scale production system in Czechoslovakia consists of 3,658 agricultural cooperatives averaging 1,100 hectares, and 290 State farms, averaging 5,000 hectares of farm land. They are mostly large enterprises, with a high standard of production. Their dynamic growth rate is best seen from the fact that gross agricultural production (in 1967 prices) increased from 40,000 million crowns in 1948 to 75,000 million in 1973. Grain yield per one hectare averages 35.2 quintals in 1973 (1 q = 100 kg); wheat alone gave hectare yields in excess of 37 quintals, and over 40 quintals in 18 districts. The fast growing output of grain and animal products makes it possible to steadily improve the food supply situation.

These results were achieved thanks to mechanization, the use of chemicals and high-yield varieties of grain, particularly Soviet wheat, and to the rising standard of qualifications of workers. For example, the consumption per hectare of chemical fertilizers is now almost 20 times higher than before the war. In 1953, there were about 32,000 tractor units in the socialist sector of agriculture, in 1972, the figure was 230,000. The number of combine harvesters rose from 1,100 to almost 18,000 in the same period. The livestock feed industry, a new branch, produces over five million tons of feed a year.

Almost 10 per cent of the agricultural labour force are people who have completed college or secondary school education. The campaign of working initiative and socialist emulation has been mounted on a broad scale.

While in 1936, one worker in agriculture produced food for four people, his production today is sufficient to meet the demand of almost 14 people. These great results have been made possible by the advantages of socialism, the honest work of people, and purposeful, plan-based socialist development.

The onset of the scientific and technological revolution in agriculture ushers in a new, challenging stage of its development; it requires a higher degree of concentration and specialization in production, both in crops and livestock, intensive utilization of high-performance machinery, higher qualification of workers, improved working environment and higher living standards in the village.

These aims are frequently beyond the economic and organizational potential of the existing agricultural cooperatives, and for this reason, various relationships of cooperation are being formed, either through membership in joint agricultural enterprises, or through cooperative zones and groupings.

Horticulture. The importance of horticultural products has been rising steadily. In fruit cultivation, the transition is being made from extensive to intensive forms: the area of orchards in one specialized enterprise should not be less than 150 hectares, and in a cooperative grouping not under 1,000 hectares. The planting of 1,500 hectares of fruit trees a year is planned. About 600 — 700 hectares of land will be brought into agricultural production every year as extensive fruit growing is discontinued.

The trend towards intensive cultivation is also evident in vegetable gardening. Plans call for construction of hundreds of hectares of green houses and foil cloches particularly in the vicinity of big cities, to provide the population with sufficient quantities of high quality fresh greenhouse vegetables.

The production and sale of flowers is now about ten times as great as in the pre-war years, and Czechoslovakia has established a name for itself in flower shows. Research is also on an adequate level, but flowers have not yet come to be regarded as an everyday need.

Forestry and Hunting. With 35 per cent of its area covered by forests, Czechoslovakia is one of the most heavily wooded countries in Europe. It is also one of the few highly industrial States that is self-sufficient in timber production. It ranks ahead of the two German States, Austria and Great Britain in per capita consumption of wood. The present per capita production is about one cubic meter, and this is expected to increase in the next 20 years in spite of the population growth. More than 92 per cent of the forests are administered by State bodies, about 6 per cent belong to cooperatives, and 1 per cent are privately owned.

The socialist timber industry in Czechoslovakia is marked by a high degree of mechanization. Felling is 99.4 per cent mechanized, conveyance to the rail-head 61.9 per cent and transport 99.5 per cent.

The many forests and fields, the diversified character of the country and the favourable climate provide ideal conditions for game. Hunting associations see that the optimal conditions are maintained, and Czechoslovakia abounds in red deer, fallow deer, roe deer, wild boar, moufflon, hares, pheasants, partridges, water fowl and other game. Most of the hunting grounds are in the care of hunting associations and the State Forest Administration. Through their efforts, the average annual output of game has risen to 90 kilograms per 100 hectares of hunting area, one of the highest such figures in the world.

Agricultural Sciences. In the early stages of the transformation of Czechoslovak agriculture into a socialist large-scale production sector, the scientific research base was fragmented, and it reflected — in terms of organization, equipment and orientation — the interests of the former social system. Some of the major scientific disciplines — particularly economics and the management of agriculture and agricultural enterprises, as well as agricultural technology — were only in their early stages. No research was being done on the problems of mechanization. Soviet agricultural science proved to be of great help to Czechoslovakia in these fields.

As socialist agricultural production expanded, conditions were created for the systematic development of scientific disciplines devoted to the better utilization of farm land and devising ways of raising its fertility. Conditions were also created for the organizational unification of these scientific branches into a scientific research base that could meet the requirements of agriculture.

Transport

There is a unified transport system in Czechoslovakia, and it is being developed in a plan-based way. The density of transport routes is among the highest in Europe. The country's advanced industry places great demands on the transport system, building materials and earth being the main freight in road transport and coal in railway transport.

The Czechoslovak State Railway (ČSD) includes some of the oldest lines in Europe: in 1840, 67 kilometres of track existed in what is now Czechoslovakia. The system took about 80 years to complete, and by 1919 there were over 13,000 kilometres of track. The figure today is 13,299 kilometres, of which about 20 per cent (2,653 kilometres) consists of electrified lines.

In terms of freight volume, the railways are still the main element of the transportation system, accounting for about 22 per cent of the transport volume in tons, and 80 per cent in ton-kilometres. It is expected that the railways will maintain this position, although there will be a further decline in passenger transport. In 1973, Czechoslovak railways carried 261 million tons of freight. Total performance was 65,200 million ton-kilometres. Bulk products prevail — solid fuels, petroleum and petroleum products, ores, building materials, as well as metallurgical and engineering products.

A programme is now underway to modernize rolling stock, depots and railway junctions, and the electrification of the main east-west and north-south lines is being carried out according to plan. In 1973, the share of electric traction in railway services was about 60 per cent; Diesel locomotives accounted for 34 per cent, and steam locomotives for only 6 per cent.

Road Transport and Munipical Transit Systems. In 1974, motor vehicle registrations in Czechoslovakia totalled more than 3 million including lorries and motorcycles. There were over 1 million passenger cars. Czechoslovakia has 73,363 kilometres of public roads. Private motoring began to expand rapidly in the mid—1960's and this is the main cause of the declining railway passenger figures. But in recent years, slight increases in bus and city transport have been registered.

Road transport accounts for almost 73 per cent of the freight volume in tons and 16 per cent in ton-kilometres; in 1973, lorries carried 278.6 million tons of goods (6,100 million ton-kilometres.)

Public bus services operate on a dense network of 5,982 lines throughout the State. The total length of the bus lines is 234,165 kilometres. The number of passengers carried in 1973 was 2,342.3 million.

The first sections of a motorway that is to link Prague and Brno are already in use, and on May 9, 1974, the first section of the Prague Metro, connecting Sokolovská Street in downtown Prague with the southern suburb of Kačerov, was opened.

Water Transport. Czechoslovakia has 5,448 kilometres of waterways. Services are provided by two companies, the Czechoslovak Danube Shipping Line on the Danube, and the Czechoslovak Labe-Oder Shipping Line on the Vltava, Labe and Oder rivers and the GDR inland canal system. Czechoslovak vessels with Czechoslovak crews carry goods to and from the GDR, the FRG and Poland, using the Elbe and other inland waterways, and also serve the Danubian countries and the Black Sea ports.

Trafic on waterways amounted to about 0.5 per cent of total freight in tons (3.5 percent in ton-kilometres). A total of 4.8 million tons of general cargo was carried in 1973.

Sea transport also plays an important role in the Czechoslovak economy, and landlocked Czechoslovakia has its own fleet of sea-going vessels.

Civil Aviation. The Czechoslovak Airlines (ČSA) fleet consists of the latest types of aircraft. Czechoslovakia was the second country (after the USSR) to introduce the TU-104 jet liners into service. Domestic routes served by ČSA total 5,448 kilometres, and together with flights to foreign destinations, the total length is 109,000 kilometres. In 1973, ČSA carried 7,347 tons of freight and 1,663,000 passengers. The number of passengres using ČSA foreign services went up by 5.6 per cent.

The latest addition to the ČSA fleet is the Soviet YAK-40, which will be used on internal routes along with the TU 134-A and the turbo-prop IL-18.

The older IL-14 is now being taken out of service. The Slovair company operates passenger services to the smaller airfields in the country, using Czech-made L-410 Turbolet planes, and provides services for agriculture. International flights are served by the IL-62 and TU 134-A jet-aircraft.

Internal Trade

After February 1948, conditions were created in Czechoslovakia for a restructuring of the network of predominantly privately owned retail businesses. In 1951, the spheres of State-run and cooperative retail trade outlets were more clearly defined. The range of goods available in rural cooperative shops was expanded to approximate that in city stores. In 1953, there were 70,595 shops (not including mobile units) in Czechoslovakia — 44,147 operated by State trading organizations, 24,947 by cooperatives, and 1,501 privately owned.

The system of catering establishments was expanded and the standard of services raised; an entirely new system of school canteens was set up and works and office canteens also grew in number and turnover. The over-large wholesale trade network, which suffered from a shortage of storage facilities and inadequate transport facilities, also had to be changed substantially to meet the demands of socialist trade.

Turnover began to rise rapidly after the abolition of rationing in 1953. The floor area of State-run shops increased by 24.5 per cent (650,000 square metres) from 1962 to 1971. Cooperative trade also showed considerable increases, though its retail turnover rose at a slower rate. This testifies to the fast tempo of reconstruction in the rural areas.

The introduction of modern forms of services — particularly self-service stores — began in 1955. Self-service shops selling basic types of consumer goods accounted for 43.7 per cent of total retail sales in 1971. The traditional over-the-counter selling has also undergone changes — especially in shops selling manufactured goods — and there are now "free selection" shops as well as others in which purchases are made after the inspection of displayed samples, and merchandise is delivered to the customer directly from warehouses. The use of non-traditional retailing methods — mail-order catalogues and automatic vending machines — has not become very widespread, but mobile shops — primarily cooperative-run — have improved super-markets. Self-service offering a large selection of goods were also introduced. Fifty-eight of them were doing business in 1972. By the second half of the 1950's, department stores selling a wide range of merchandise had become indispensable in large cities. In the late 1960's, six new department stores with a total selling area of more than 40,000 square metres were opened. In new residential districts, shopping centres were found to be the most effective form of retail trade outlet, making possible savings of up to 39 per cent in floor space and 25 per cent in personnel. The technical aspects of operating shops improved through the use of standardized units and the mechanization of handling operations.

The annual retail trade turnover per square metre of selling area went up from 30,500 crowns in 1962 to 42,000 crowns in 1971. Turnover per employee went up from 520,000 to 720,000 crowns in the same period.

The network of restaurants is also successfully expanding. The number of establishments increased by 24 per cent between 1956 and 1961, with seating for 26 per cent more customers. In the next decade, up to 1971, the capacity of all public catering establishments increased by one third (new units) and by one fourth (seating). Faster growth was registered in rural areas and in Slovakia than in the Czech lands, in line with the need to narrow existing differences. New types of specialized establishments — snack bars, grills, etc. — were also introduced.

Great successes have been attained in the development of school canteens; in those educational establishments administered by the National Committees (i. e. all except crèches and institutions of higher education) the State covered about 50 per cent of the costs. The number of school-canteens increased from 5,853 in 1960 to 10,147 in 1970, i. e. by 73 per cent, and the number of schoolchildren and students taking their meals in them went up by nearly 80 per cent. Whereas in 1960 only 28 per cent of the schools had their own school canteen, this figure had increased to 47 per cent by 1970.

The system of works canteens, one of the factors adding to the contentment of the workers, is an integral part of the care given by enterprises to their employees and their health. The provision of regular hot meals, prepared according to the proper nutritional principles and served in a quiet and pleasant millieu, ensures the optimum functioning of the work-force and also gives the working people, and especially the women, more free time.

As of December 31, 1973, there were 3,995 works canteens and 3,090 buffets in enterprises in the Czech Socialist Republic. They provided meals for 765,745 persons, i. e. 17.4 per cent of the total number of working people (excluding unified agricultural cooperatives). In Slovakia, 26 per cent of all the working people took their meals at works canteens in 1973. The price of the meals for the worker only covers the actual cost of the raw materials required for their preparation, all other expenditures are covered by the enterprises and organizations. In order to prevent any drop in standards in the system of works canteens and, on the contrary, to ensure that it continues to expand, meet its aims and remain under uniform direction, regulation and supervision, the tasks connected with the development of works canteens will become part of the five-year and annual plans.

A major contribution to the rationalization of production and to sales increases was made with the addition to the retail trade system of new facilities producing prepared meals, delicatessen items and pastries.

The growing tourist trade sparked new construction and the modernization of existing facilities. The number of beds increased substantially, the growth rate being somewhat faster in resort facilities operated by enterprises than in the sphere of commercial tourism.

The plan-based development of trade is aimed at the increasingly rational organization of the trade network, the elimination of pointless competition, a more defined assortment and the operational standardization and categorization of trade units, and a more economical movement of goods between trade organizations. Gradual changes in the regional supply structure are taking place in accordance with the general guidelines for shaping the socialist way of life.

Foreign Trade

External economic relations play a major role in the national economy of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Their development rests chiefly on cooperation with the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union, on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual assistance. This fundamental orientation of Czechoslovak foreign trade does not, of course, preclude efforts at the promotion of trade relations and economic cooperation with the industrially advanced capitalist countries and with the developing countries, on the basis of equality, sovereignty, mutual economic advantage and non-discrimination.

Foreign trade was given a new, socialist basis by Act No. 119, adopted in 1948, on the State organization of foreign trade and international forwarding. The Ministry of Foreign Trade became the State body responsible for exercising the socialist monopoly in foreign trade and, following the provisions of the law, a number of specialized foreign trade corporations were established and given exclusive rights to engage in export, import and services in their various spheres.

At the present time, the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade acts as the central body of State administration of Czechoslovakia's external economic relations. The State foreign trade monopoly is based on a unified trade policy, plan-based concepts of external economic relations drawn up in accordance with the overall economic policy of the State, the creation of economic instruments designed to ensure that the objectives are achieved and, finally, the assignment of specific foreign trade operations to the various organizations. All foreign trade organizations represent the extensive economic potential of Czechoslovak industry and other branches of the national economy, and are reliable partners in promoting international commercial and economic cooperation.

The teritorial structure of foreign trade changed substantially in the post-war period: the share of goods exchanged with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries increased considerably. In 1948, the total turnover of Czechoslovak foreign trade was 10,328 million crowns, which included trade with the socialist countries amounting to 4,098 milion crowns; in 1973, the figures were 71,127 million and 49,340 million crowns, respectively.

The commodity structure of Czechoslovak foreign trade has also undergone substantial changes. Before World War II, the main export items were products of the textile, leather and glass industries; raw materials accounted for 50 per cent of all imports, and manufactured goods for 30 per cent. The remainder were foodstuffs and other kinds of goods. In the post-war period, exports and imports of machinery and equipment went up considerably, and there was a drop in the exports of raw materials and products of the food industry.

Czechoslovakia's cooperation with the Soviet Union is of fundamental importance for the development of the national economy. In 1973, bilateral trade between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union exceeded 21,000 million crowns. The dominant position of the USSR in Czechoslovak foreign trade rests not so much on the high turnover as on the commodity structure. In Czechoslovak imports from the Soviet Union, the share of machinery and equipment is steadily rising, and equally important are supplies of raw materials, other materials and foods.

Long-term agreements on exports of Czechoslovak engineering products to the Soviet Union have made it possible to expand engineering production in Czechoslovakia; high-standard mass production makes a great contribution to the rising effectiveness of the Czechoslovak national economy, and enterprises are given assured, long-term production programmes. New kinds of relationships are becoming increasingly important in Czechoslovakia's relations with the Soviet Union, particularly specialization and cooperation in production.

The other socialist countries are also among

Czechoslovakia's important trade partners; in terms of the volume of bilateral trade they rank as follows: the GDR, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Cuba and Mongolia.

Among the capitalist countries, the FRG is Czechoslovakia's largest trade partner. The turnover of Czechoslovak — West German trade represents almost one fourth of Czechoslovakia's trade with the economically advanced capitalist states. Next on the list are Austria, Great Britain, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, USA, France and Belgium together with Luxembourg. There has been also an increase in trade with the Scandinavian countries, particularly with Sweden and Denmark, while the trade with other European states and with overseas countries has shown the slowest growth rate. Since 1960, the commodity structure of Czechoslovak trade with the industrially advanced capitalist states has also been changing: the share of machinery and equipment has been increasing, that of other goods declining.

Czechoslovakia is also cooperating successfully with the developing countries on the basis of a number of new agreements, and participating in their industrialization and overall development; this in turn contributes towards strengthening their economic independence from imperialism.

Cooperation is particulary extensive with the Egyptian Arab Republic and India; in recent years, it has greatly intensified for instance with Iraq, Syria, Brazil, etc. Czechoslovak exports to these countries include, mainly, complete plants; imports comprise citrus fruit, oil-seeds, vegetable oils, coffee, cotton, textiles, hides and consumer goods.

The future prospects for Czechoslovak foreign trade are directly related to the overall economic objectives. The development of the country's economy will be influenced to a decisive extent by the gradual realization of socialist economic integration among the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. This will result not only in further increases in foreign trade in the form of expanded exports and imports of services, but also in a more intensive application of new forms of external economic relations arising, for example, from specialization and cooperation in production, as well as from cooperation in the joint modernization of the production processes. It is expected that this will affect the structure of Czechoslovak exports and imports, as well as the extent of supplies provided under cooperation arrangements. In the next decade, the volume of Czechoslovak foreign trade is expected at least to double.

FINANCE AND CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Czechoslovakia is 1 Kčs (Czechoslovak crown), which has 100 hellers. It contains 0.123426 grams of pure gold. The present Czechoslovak currency system, introduced on June 1, 1953 comprises banknotes to the value of 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500 Kčs and coins to the value of 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 hellers and 1, 2 and 5 Kčs. Apart from this, commemorative coins were issued on special occasions in values of 10, 25, 50 and 100 Kčs.

While the cash income of the population is increasing, the overall level of retail prices of goods and services is stable, the cost of living remains unchanged and the purchasing power of the currency unit is increasing. Between 1971 and 1974 the purchasing power of the crown rose by 0.5 per cent. The volume of money in circulation is increasing in a planned way, in keeping with the growth of the national economy. Between 1971 and 1974 the volume of currency increased by 8,100 million Kčs.

The basic document regulating currency development is the currency plan, which is drafted in close relation to the State national economic plan of development and the Czechoslovak State budget. The currency plan is used for a plan-based control of monetary, credit and foreign currency relations.

The central bank in Czechoslovakia is the Czechoslovak State Bank, set up in 1950. It is a bank of issue, functioning at the same time in the domestic economy as a specialized bank. The Czechoslovak State Bank has a statutory fund totalling 5,000 million crowns, used to finance the Bank's commitments, the general reserve fund and possibly other funds specified by the Czechoslovak Government. The principles of the State Bank's domestic and foreign currency policy, approved by the Czechoslovak Government, are binding for all banking institutions and organizations.

By granting credits, the State Bank influences the implementation of nationwide interests; by pursuing a differentiated credit policy it assumes social control over the economy of various organizations. In the foreign currency area it ensures the concentration of foreign currencies and their planned use.

The budgetary system of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic consists of the Federal State budget, the State budgets of the two national republics and National Committee budgets. The State budgets provide the financial means for implementation of the State plan of development of the national economy and the economic, political and social tasks of society. The main source of budgetary incomes are payments by State economic organizations, especially from profit, the turnover tax and certain other incomes paid into the treasury from State and cooperative organizations. The taxes paid by the population, mainly from income tax, are a relatively small part of overall budgetary incomes. A major part of budgetary expenditures is allocated to the development of the economy, especially capital construction, the development of science and technology, and various grants and subsidies, especially to agriculture.

An important and steadily increasing group of budgetary expenditures are laid out for social consumption, especially social security, education, health service, culture, housing construction and maintenance, etc. The State thereby contributes an average of more than 6,500 crowns per person annually. In this way it helps to raise the living standard of the population and strengthen the people's social certainties.

Czechoslovakia has a unified price system, which fulfils its specific functions in industry (wholesale prices), agriculture (purchasing prices) and consumption (retail prices). The essential task of the State prices control system is to ensure prolonged stability of the general price level, especially that of retail prices. Prices are controlled in a planned way; the Czechoslovak Government lays down binding rules according to which prices may be changed; this is done mainly within the State Plan.

To secure the planned growth in the standard of living and social guarantees of the Czechoslovak working people, the present movement of raw material and other prices in the world economy is being offset by active measures in production, by raising its effectiveness. On principle, unlike the capitalist countries, the burden of rising prices is not shifted onto consumer prices.

STANDARD OF LIVING

The term "living standard" must be understood to refer to more than the quality of the individual's consumption. The standard of living is actually the sum total of all factors relating to the material and intellectual development of each citizen, including also, of course, his material security. In determining the standard of living, therefore, many factors must be taken into account: working conditions, the length of the work-week, the guarantees of a secure existence, education, health care, care for retired persons, etc.

The rise in the standard of living achieved in Czechoslovakia in the past thirty years is unprecedented in the country's previous development. The achievements are reflected both in material security, in the strengthening of living and social guarantees, and — last but not least — in the broad sphere of culture and leisure.

A comparison of facts and figures gives a clearer picture. It is true that in pre-war, capitalist Czechoslovakia, in the period from 1918 to 1939, the standard of living was also high and there was even prosperity — but only for what was termed "the upper ten thousand". A life of luxury in capitalist Czechoslovakia was typical only for a negligible fraction of the population, while at the other end of the scale, 65—75 per cent of the workers were in the under-500 crown wage bracket. In 1933, moreover, every third worker was unemployed. There was also unemployment among the intelligentsia: 3,000 teachers were jobless in the same year. Another seamy side of Czechoslovakia's capitalist past was the fact that between 1922 and 1937, half a million people left the country, whose total population was 14 million, in search of work abroad. The situation in rural areas was equally dismal: in 1936, only one fourth of all farms were free of debt.

Growth in Sources of the Living Standard

The standard of living can rise only if there is a growth in the fundamental economic sources. The fact that the national income index is now 438 (100 in 1937), the index of industrial production 879 (100 in 1937) and that of gross agricultural production 137.2 (100 in 1936) testifies in itself to a dynamic growth rate of the factors that contribute to the increase of the standard of living of the broadest sections of the population. It should be noted that the quantitative aspect of the economic development of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is being accompanied, to an increasing extent, by changing qualitative indicators, by a greater emphasis on the technical standard of products and their improvement, the higher effectiveness of the economic processes and the application of the latest scientific and technical findings. An important factor in stimulating greater effectiveness, and thus indirectly leading to a rise in the standard of living, is Czechoslovakia's active participation in the international division of labour within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and its participation in cooperation and specialization as provided for by the Comprehensive Programme of Socialist Economic Integration adopted in 1971.

Dynamic Growth of Monetary Sources

The people of Czechoslovakia now have much greater financial means to cover their material and cultural needs than at any time in the past. Compared with 1970, the nominal monetary incomes were a full 19 per cent higher in 1973. And since effective measures were taken in the past three years to raise the birth rate, large families have shown an intensified growth rate of incomes. This trend continued in 1974. Similarly, the gap between the financial incomes of workers

in industry and in agriculture has continued to narrow: this has been a major contribution towards the gradual and now already quite evident elimination of disparities between the living standards of the urban and rural populations.

Monetary income cannot be viewed, of course, separately from the cost of living, and it is necessary to point out in this respect that the development of retail prices in the past three years has served to confirm the guarantees of a secure existence for all social sectors of the population. Since the cost of living has remained stabilized, and the average monthly nominal wage is rising (1971 : 2,009 crowns, 1972 : 2,091 crowns, 1973 : 2,161 crowns), the growth rate of real incomes is faster than that of nominal incomes.

Young married couples enjoy considerable financial benefits: they can apply for attractive loans of up to 30 000 crowns, from which certain sums are written off by the State on the birth of every child.

A major indicator of the rising standard of living is private expenditure, which amounted to 93,200 million crowns in 1955, totalled 147,800 million in 1965 and reached 253,900 million in 1973.

Savings deposits can also be taken as a qualitative indicator of the rising standard of living. Savings make it possible to satisfy the people's demand for automobiles, country cottages, foreign trips and the like. In 1971, the increase of savings deposits totalled 12,000 million crowns, and in 1973 it went past the 15,000 million mark. This trend, which continued in 1974, demonstrates the people's confidence in the stability of the Czechoslovak currency and the overall economic development.

Rise in Social Incomes

The wage, even though it is an important factor from the viewpoint of rising prosperity, is not and cannot be taken, under socialism, as a complete indicator of the development of the living standard. The very term "living standard" suggests that it concerns the standard of life in its entirety, and the living standard cannot be shown by means of only a few selected indicators, but only on the basis of man's full range of needs, which can be grouped as follows:

— food
— garments
— housing
— health care
— transport and telecommunications
— education and culture
— use of leisure

The standard of living is not reflected in the personal income of an individual alone, but also in the aggregate sum of incomes which individuals and families receive in the form of various types of social security benefits. In sickness insurance and mother-and-child care benefits alone, 16 per cent more was paid out by the State in 1973 than in 1970. Incomes from the old-age pension scheme show an even faster growth, and it should be noted that Czechoslovakia is one of the countries with the lowest retirement age; this possibility does not exist for working people in many advanced capitalist countries, for example in Canada, Ireland and Denmark, where old age pensions begin at the age of 70, while in others, such as the United States, Holland and some other countries, the retirement age is 65.

In a socialist society, the social incomes of the population play a special role. The socialist society does not deal with individual "social cases" as the capitalist society does, but ensures the social incomes by seeing to all aspects of man's development, which was not the case in the past. This includes State expenditure on education, health services, sport, etc. From its social funds, the State also covers — either in full or in part — other requirements of the people, such as the development of culture, appropriate, comfortable housing, care for children in crèches and kindergartens, subsidized prices of children's wear, etc.

Structure of the Food Consumption

The times when food was only a means to appease hunger have long since passed in Czechoslovakia never to return. Antonín Zápotocký's words at the 9th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in 1949 — "We want not only to eliminate destitution and poverty, but to raise the overall standard of living once and for all" — have already been translated into reality as regards food consumption, the structure of which has undergone many changes in socialist Czechoslovakia. There has been a steady decline in the consumption of potatoes, flour and bread, and a rising demand for foods that meet rational requirements for their healthier structure.

The prevailing trend is away from flour, lard, potatoes, etc., towards lean meat (including poultry), early vegetables and fruit, suitable for those who are dieting, diabetic food, low-calory fats, a greater range of specialties, delicatessen and beverages (mainly non-alcoholic). In 1975, annual per capita consumption of meat will be more than 80 kg.

One of the characteristic features of the development over the past several years is the fact that, while the sales of manufactured goods have shown rapid increases, food sales have had a slower growth rate (the ratio in the past three years was 20 to 14 per cent). This shows that the peak in food consumption has already been reached, and that the market supply fully meets the demand. The changes at present are only in the structure of food consumption — towards more nutritious foods.

Better Housing

The thirty years of free Czechoslovakia have witnessed a complete change in the way of life of an overwhelming majority of the people. This is also true in the sphere of housing.

A 1950 census showed that more than one fourth of all homes were 100 years old. Especially in rural areas, a majority of the homes did not have even the basic amenities, a sewage system or running water. After Czechoslovakia's liberation, the average floor space went up, and the quality of housing was also raised substantially. The efforts being made in this sphere do not concentrate only on providing each family with a new flat but also on gradually modernizing the existing housing stock. Between 1948 and 1974, 1.9 million new flats were built. More than one third of all families now live in homes built after the liberation in 1945. Yet all this is not enough to meet the rising demand, and the housing question is being given priority attention by the top bodies. Naturally, State assistance is also given for the construction of family houses and flats in private ownership.

The completed housing projects have changed and are continuing to change the appearance of towns and villages, and the housing policy has now become an instrument making it possible to close the gap between the living standard of various social groups and between the urban and rural population. It is regarded as completely natural today that, even in the outlying districts of the country, cooperative farm workers live in flats equipped with central or floor heating and bathrooms with running hot water and that, in many cases, they have garages for their cars. That they have refrigerators, washing machines, TV sets, vacuum cleaners and other appliances goes without saying. The number of private telephone subscribers has also been increasing, further proof of the rising standard of living: the number of subscribers was 213,000 in 1937, had reached 1,016,000 in 1960, and is 2,354,000 at present. The number of TV-licence holders increased from 32,000 in 1955 to 3,404,000.

Evidence of the rising standard of living can also be seen in public facilities built in cities, towns and rural areas: new, modern schools, hospitals and policlinics, crèches and kindergartens, cultural centres, stadiums, swimming pools and youth clubs. Services, an integral part of people's requirements, should also be included here. Under the Fifth Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy in the period from 1971—1975, paid services provided for the population are to be expanded by 25—30 per cent. Special attention is being given to services that facilitate household work, to maintenance and repair services and — in consequence of the unprecedented expansion of motoring — to services for motorists. The shortcomings that still exist are being removed by a rapid modernization of existing service facilities and the construction of service centres.

Leisure

In the past 30 years, working conditions have improved substantially in Czechoslovakia. The work-week, which was 48 hours in 1955, has been shortened to an average of 41.6 hours. The shorter work-week, along with more effective use of the working time, gives people greater leisure. This, in turn, has a positive influence on productivity, and thus helps create the prerequisites for attaining a still higher standard of living. For this reason, free time is regarded in Czechoslovakia as a factor of economic growth.

There are ample opportunities to engage in cultural pursuits and sports activities in socialist Czechoslovakia; various forms of recreation at privately-owned weekend homes as well as tourism and motoring are becoming increasingly popular; young people can join numerous hobby clubs, etc.

Not Only Material Prosperity

Experience shows that rising production and consumption alone would not automatically lead to a rise in the standard of living, and that a number of other indicators — cultural and ethical — have to be followed. The statement by Dr. Gustáv Husák, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, at the 14th Congress of the Party, was entirely justified: "We do not regard an increase in material consumption as an end in itself, but as a starting point towards the overall enrichment of life and the development of the creative potential of the people, the development of those factors and elements which strengthen the socialist way of life in society, in the people and in their mutual relationships".

HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Health care holds an important place in the broad system of social care and, as a part of social consumption, makes a major contribution to the rise in the living standards of all citizens.

The State has taken over responsibility for the health of every individual. Free medical and preventive care of the highest standard has gradually been introduced and extended to the whole population.

Before 1948, there were no more than 10,000 doctors in the whole country, and the handful of specialists were found only in the largest cities. Only a tiny section of the population could make use of the health services to the full extent — those who were able to pay for them. Although about two thirds of the population were covered by sickness insurance schemes, the situation was such that manual workers, in particular, had to make do with inadequate care as a result of various restrictive stipulations in the insurance companies' policies. Every third citizen was forced to cover all the costs himself, provided, of course, he had the necessary means to do so.

The February victory brought about a fundamental change in health care. Hospitals, sanatoria, spas and mineral springs were nationalized, the nationalization of the pharmaceutical industry was completed and national insurance became statutory.

The right to free health services was rapidly expanded: by 1956, it applied to nine tenths of all the population and the Act passed in 1966 introduced free medical care for all citizens without any distinction.

The fragmented health system — based on private, charity and only to a small part public medicine — was within a relatively short period of time revamped and transformed into a comprehensive network of health facilities which, in terms of the density and the extent of the services provided, is one of the best in the world, comprising nearly 250,000 health workers. There are now more than three times as many doctors as in 1948, with one doctor for every 393 inhabitants — the third highest ratio in the world. The number of beds in the health facilities has increased by more than 90,000 in comparison with 1937.

The increased density of the network of health facilities enables the doctors to concentrate to a greater extent on prevention, which has been reflected most strikingly in mother-and-child care. Whereas there were only 395 pediatricians in the whole country in 1949, there are now more than 2,500. Every infant is seen by a specialist on the average twenty-two times and every expectant mother seven times. Up to 1948, most babies were born at home — 51 per cent in the Czech lands and 85 per cent in Slovakia. Today, practically all children are born at maternity hospitals and maternity wards.

Systematic care for women during pregnancy and the concentration of confinements in maternity hospitals and maternity wards has reduced the mortality rate among mothers as well as the number of stillborn children. The decline in the mortality of infants below one year of age is documented by the following data: in 1948, the mortality rate per 1,000 children was 83.5; in 1955, 77.7; in 1960, 23.5; in 1970, 21.6; in 1972, 21.4. The number of crèches for children of working mothers increased from 228 in 1948 to 1,622 in 1973, and the number of places available in these crèches grew in the same period from 6,050 to 67,657.

The doctors are not restricted by any regulations with regard to expenditures on medical treatment, and are guided exclusively by their expert judgement and the needs of the patient. For example, in 1971, the value of medicaments issued free of charge per doctor amounted to 53,000 crowns.

At the time of the nationalization of the pharmaceutical industry, there were only 370 domestically produced medicaments for the doctors to choose from. Today, pharmacies are supplied with about 800 kinds of mass-produced domestic drugs, only half of which have been available for more than 10 years. Some 300 kinds of drugs are regularly imported and, in addition to this, individual imports of special drugs are licensed free of charge for those who require them.

The substantial expansion and improvement of free health services has involved considerable expenditure. Since 1952 all health care costs have been covered by the State; in the course of 20 years they reached nearly 160,000 million crowns.

The social guarantee to all sections of the working people of permanent and full employment, a constant and adequate income and the satisfaction of legitimate social needs from public funds is an important factor in the people's living standard.

One of the first important steps relating to living standards taken after February 1948 was the new National Insurance Act, which came into effect in October 1948. It substantially raised the manual workers' level of social security, provided security for other sectors of the work force and became the basis of the whole system of social security which was gradually developed and expanded in the subsequent years. On the basis of the rapid growth of industrial production, which was also reflected in a substantial increase in wages, further important adjustments were carried out in the pension scheme in 1957 and 1975. Pensions were raised considerably, and a new criterion for determining their amount was introduced — achievement during working life.

Social security is granted to all the working population without any exception, and applies to all situations in which there is a temporary or permanent loss of earned income. The qualifying age for an old age pension is 60 for men and 53—57 (according to the number of children brought up) for women. The limit is even lower in certain branches where work has to be done under more difficult conditions; for instance in underground pits and in a number of other branches men qualify for a pension at 55. There is also a lower retirement age for participants in the anti-fascist resistance movement.

Whereas in 1948 the number of persons covered by the pension scheme was 4.7 million, this figure had increased to 7.3 million by 1973. The number of pensions paid, which in 1948 amounted to 1,305,000, had reached 3,501,000 in 1973. Expenditures on pensions increased from slightly under 3,600 million crowns in 1948 to 29,500 million crowns in 1973.

For instance in 1936, the monthly old-age pension (for workers) averaged only 153 crowns. The then Minister of Social Welfare, J. Nečas, had to admit in the Budgetary Committee of the National Assembly in November 1936 that "a working-class family with five members requires 150 crowns to buy the food it needs, apart from what it has to spend on footwear, clothing and rent".

Today, old-age pensions average 928 crowns a month, which is 42.9 per cent of the average nominal wage, and the trend is towards an even more favourable ratio.

An important role in the systematic creation of socialist guarantees of a secure existence and secure social conditions for the citizens is played by the measures for encouraging population growth. The social assistance given to families with children has various forms. Pregnant women and working mothers are protected by special legal regulations. Various financial benefits have been introduced and gradually raised, including children's allowances and paid maternity leave. The growing employment of women has been accompanied by a considerable expansion of the system of social facilities, crèches and nursery schools.

At childbirth, a working woman in this country is entitled to paid maternity leave, in the course of which she is paid 90 per cent of her former net wages; this payment continues over a period of 26 weeks. An unsupported mother or a mother who has given birth to two or more children at a time and who is caring for at least two of the new-born children, is entitled to paid maternity leave for 35 weeks.

If a mother is taking care of two or more dependent children and decides that she does not want to return to work after the expiry of the 26 weeks of paid maternity leave, she receives a child-care grant of 500 crowns a month until the youngest child reaches the age of two. All mothers have the right to this grant, even if they were not employed before the birth of the child. Nearly 90 per cent of the women who are entitled to them do in fact draw their child-care grants.

The grant that is paid automatically at the birth of every child was raised on October 1, 1971 from 1,000 to 2,000 crowns. It is intended to cover the family's incidental expenses connected with the birth of the baby, i. e. the purchase of a crib, pram, and other essentials.

On January 1, 1973 allowances were substantially raised for the second, third and fourth dependent child. The monthly children's allowance for one child is 90 crowns, for two children it is 430 crowns, for three children 880 crowns and for four children 1,280 crowns. At the same time, the supplementary allowance granted on top of the children's allowance for every child who is disabled was raised from the former 150 crowns to 300 crowns per month.

The adjustment of the whole system of children's allowances that was carried out in 1973 has had a great social and economic impact. The increased children's allowances are paid to some 1.3 million families accounting for about three-quarters of the total number of dependent children. The adjustment increased the income of about a quarter of the adult population and involved an expenditure of more than 2,000 million crowns per year.

As from April 1, 1973 young married couples below 30 years of age have been eligible for loans granted at very advantageous terms. The State introduced this measure to enable newly-weds, in particular, to set up their own household. Among the advantageous terms of the loans, which are granted up to the amount of 30,000 crowns, is a low rate of interest. In addition to this, 2,000 crowns of the loan are written off on the birth of the first child and 4,000 crowns on the birth of the second and every subsequent child.

About 200,000 newly married couples took advantage of these loans in the first year after their introduction.

The expenditures connected with the new social measures that were adopted in 1971—1974 as a follow-up to the conclusions of the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia represent about 4,600 million crowns per year, The total amount spent by the society on the various forms of financial benefits granted to families with children, i.e. the expenditures on the former as well as on the newly introduced measures, amounted in 1973 to nearly 15,000 million crowns.

In addition to this, families with children also enjoy many additional benefits, in particular very inexpensive or even free services of different kinds, including care for their children at crèches and nursery schools. Families with children are also granted various reductions and other benefits such as lower taxes and rents, etc. Children's clothing and footwear are subsidized by the State and hence sell at very low prices.

The total cost of the assistance given by the society to families with children amounted in 1973 to some 25,000 million crowns, i.e. a monthly average of 520 crowns per child.

In terms of the amount of assistance given by the society to families with children, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is one of the leading countries in the world.

EDUCATION

The first schools on the territory of the present Czechoslovak State existed as early as the 9th century. In 1348, Charles University, the first in Central Europe, was founded in Prague. On its campus Church reformer John Hus taught the ideas of social equality among people and the need to raise the general educational level. One of the foundation stones of modern pedagogy and educational systems are the teachings and work of Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius).

In the history of our nations, demands for education were linked with progressive traditions, with the struggle of the people for democracy, for political and social rights. The principle of democratic education was formulated as follows as early as 1931 by the then General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Klement Gottwald: "We shall open to young workers and farmers the doors to free education, even at the highest level." This goal was not to the liking of the bourgeoisie and clerical reaction, who wanted to preserve the old principles of education with elitist tendencies.

At the time of fascist terror, the scope of elementary and secondary schools was severely curtailed, and on November 17, 1939, all Czech unversities were closed down, nine student functionaries executed and 1,200 students sent to concentration camps. The pretext for such a drastic measure was the demonstration on October 28, in which students took part alongside the workers of Prague. The first shots were fired and the first martyrs fell — a worker and a student. In 1941, in commemoration of these tragic events, November 17 was proclaimed International Student Day.

Ideas on democratizing education and making it accessible to the broadest strata of the working people were already embodied in the Košice Government Programme, which laid the basis for the future road to be taken by Czechoslovakia after victory over fascism. A milestone in the development of Czechoslovak education was the Act approved on April 1, 1948, on a uniform educational system, part of the revolutionary transformations effected after February 1948. The Act completed the nationalization of education and abolished outdated Austro-Hungarian regulations. For the first time in the history of our nations a unified educational system was created, covering schools that provided theoretical study for future workers.

The new organization of the educational system eliminated the discriminatory measures of the bourgeois school. The principles of democracy, unity, the polytechnical nature of education, its scientific foundations and that education is free of charge, put into practice by this first Czechoslovak Educational Act, were developed and reinforced in the further progress of the socialist State.

The bourgeois heritage was overcome in the process of building a socialist system of education in Czechoslovakia. The standard of education in Czechoslovakia shows an important quantitative and qualitative development over the past 30 years.

Only the socialist system has given the broad masses of working people access to education. It has created equal conditions for all in acquiring education, irrespective of nationality. School education began to develop in line with the development of the entire society, while pursuing the principle of a unified education based on a scientific world outlook and a moral-political impact in the spirit of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

The present educational system in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic guarantees free education and upbringing for all young people and enables citizens of all age categories to acquire greater skills through courses run for working people. The socialist State spends large sums on the development of education. The State also is concerned with the education of teachers. One of the achievements

of Czechoslovak education is that teachers at all school levels are trained for their work at universities.

Education in Czechoslovakia is free. Pupils and apprentices at elementary and secondary schools are given textbooks and school aids without charge. The variety of textbooks and texts which students may borrow from the school, and other advantages, facilitate access to studies in schools at all levels. Equal possibilities to study at secondary schools and universities are also provided by the system of social, enterprise and scholarship grants. Canteens in schools and universities provide pupils and students with good quality meals, the costs of which are heavily subsidized by the State. Accommodation in student hostels is also very cheap.

Medical care of all kinds for all pupils and students is given free of charge and is, in fact, compulsory. There is a system of fare reductions, subsidies for trainees and sports activity, an advantageous savings scheme for young people, advantageous loans, grants to mothers and other benefits.

The system of consulting services in choosing a profession is being more widely applied, in keeping with the interest and capabilities of young people and the needs of society. Working students are granted extensive benefits by employers.

The Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic guarantees the right to education, which is ensured under the present educational system by the uniform system of schools, educational establishments, each linking up organically with the other. In Czechoslovakia, school attendance is compulsory for all children from 6 to 15 years of age, and is provided in elementary nine-year schools.

Schools and educational facilities are divided into three basic groups:

Schools and educational establishments in the 1st cycle cover the education and upbringing of children under fifteen, and include nurseries, kindergartens, elementary nine-year schools, elementary schools for children requiring special care, children's homes and children's educational establishments.

Schools and educational establishments in the 2nd cycle provide education and upbringing for youth over fifteen and comprise schools for apprentices, grammar schools, secondary technical schools, conservatories, schools for apprentices and secondary schools for youth requiring special care, and homes and other educational institutions for youth.

Schools of higher learning offer education in the social sciences, the technical, natural, and agricultural sciences and in the arts. They include universities, technical colleges, schools of economics, agricultural schools and arts schools.

During the period of building a socialist education there has been a dramatic development in pre-school education, in developing the system of nurseries, kindergartens, and other pre-school facilities. The purpose of these establishments is to take care of the all-round development and moulding of children's personalities, their physical and psychical well-being and to prepare them for elementary school.

The State spends huge sums on the building and upkeep of kindergartens. The number of these schools is now three times more than in 1955, while the number of classrooms has increased six fold. At present, 32,600 trained teachers are in charge of 63 per cent of the total number of three to six-year-olds. By 1985, 75 per cent of pre-school age children are expected to attend kindergartens. To cope with the influx, new facilities are being built. One of the main tasks laid down by the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in educational policy is to ensure that all five-year-olds attend kindergarten.

The socialist educational system of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic stresses the principle of polytechnical education, intended to make certain that young people are better acquainted with the fundamental principles of organization of modern production, technology and economics. Schools are equipped with modern teaching aids, workshops and laboratories. Close contact with practical life is provided for pupils and teachers by factories and agricultural cooperatives, especially in the form of patronage contracts, excursions and practical work.

One of the outstanding achievements of socialist education is the training of young workers. Vocational schools, apprentice centres and apprentice schools have opened up more possibilities for young people to acquire an education. Tuition in these establishments is not narrowly specialized; increasingly greater stress is being laid on general education. New, demanding trades are gradually being introduced in apprentice courses, which are on a par with secondary education and end with matriculation examinations qualifying the graduate for university study.

A positive course has also been followed by secondary vocational schools, in which changes in the curriculum were necessitated by social development and scientific and technical progress. A specially important role is played by these schools, together with grammar schools, in raising the educational standards and skills of the working people.

Scientific progress, differentiation of branches, and growing social demands have led to the establishment of new universities, to the emergence of specialized faculties and various new fields of study. The network of universities, too, has been greatly extended with the number of students rising five times since 1927 and the numbers of schools three times. Apart from the traditional university towns (Prague, Brno, Olomouc, Bratislava), universities were set up in nearly all regional towns after 1948. In addition to full time study programmes which predominate, certain subjects may be studied by employed people in the form of special courses for working people, of evening and external courses. To raise the qualifications of specialists, certain universities offer post-graduate studies. Scientific and research activity is also developing successfully at universities, together with various forms of scientific training. University education is accessible to every citizen in socialist Czechoslovakia, irrespective of his or her social background.

Great achievements have been registered in the construction of new schools and in the providing of financial means for education. Since 1948, nearly half-a-million new places and 12,000 classrooms have been built for elementary educational purposes, and the number of beds in school hostels has doubled. Blocks of new buildings have been built for universities. By 1973 classroom space of universities was extended by 326,700 square metres and dormitories with a capacity of 57,000 beds were built.

The network of school canteens in all types of schools, which are the recipients of big State grants, has been expanded. In elementary schools alone, more than million pupils take their lunch in school canteens.

Nearly one out of every six pupils attends after-school instruction or a youth club, run for the children of employed mothers. In these clubs, the pupils spend their free time and do their homework under the supervision of tutors. Each year, thousands of children spend some time in "nature schools", on skiing holidays and at summer camps.

The socialist school is not only a traditional educational establishment. It links up with extensive special interest and out-of-school activities. People's schools of art, as a form of special-interest education, teach the rudiments, and more, in their particular subjects.

The successes achieved in educational work with children and young people are due in part to social organizations, especially the Socialist Union of Youth and its Young Pioneers, in which most children and young people are organized at present. Of great help in obtaining the educational goals of the socialist school is the parent-teachers' association.

THIRTY YEARS OF CZECHOSLOVAK SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the years of socialist construction, science and technology has undergone an enormous development in Czechoslovakia, due not only to scientific progress in the world, but also, and mainly, to the revolutionary transformations in Czechoslovak society and the needs of socialist construction.

In the bourgeois republic, which was an industrially advanced country, relatively great attention was devoted to scientific and technological development, but this development was completely subordinate to the particular interests of monopoly capital groups. Consequently, the country's scientific and technical base was very limited. Research was unevenly distributed, it was very fragmented and was not centrally coordinated, while short-term orientation and efforts to ensure capitalist profit were prevalent. Enterprises oriented their research institutions mainly to applied research and development. Basic research centred chiefly around small groups of workers at universities, which explains why it was governed by individual interests and tendencies. In 1937 there were about 40 institutes and laboratories in the Czech lands, all of which were working on applied research and development. The number of professional workers in research was less than 2,000.

After the working class took power in Czechoslovakia and the means of production were socialized, new prospects opened up for our society. A key position in constructing this new society is held by scientific and research work as one of the important dynamic factors of social development. The working class, led by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, was well aware that the great aims of building socialism and Communism can be achieved only on the basis of plans and long-term scientific and technical development, in conditions with new production relations prevailing. The socialization of production, national economic planning, the liquidation of private ownership of the means of production and the results of scientific research have created the necessary conditions for building a state-wide system of scientific research. The process of coordinating and unifying science and production began to develop, new relationships were created between science, technology and production, based on a unified State policy in science and technology.

The new approach to a unified, nationwide management of scientific development was reflected in the new Act of 1949 on organizing research in Czechoslovakia. Soviet experience in scientific policy served as an example and as a basis for the administration, planning and coordination of scientific work and the search for new ways of educating would-be scientists.

An important milestone in the development of Czechoslovak science, especially of basic research, came about in 1952 with the establishment of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, which associated the most important scientists and specialists from all branches and created a suitable organizational framework for their activity and the application of scientific results in practice. The first president of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was Zdeněk Nejedlý, one of the foremost protagonists of new ideas and political trends. Klement Gottwald, who was President of the Republic at the time, in his letter to the opening ceremony of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences most aptly described the new orientation of Czechoslovak scientific development when he said: "...not science for science's sake, not science standing aloof, but science linked with the life and the needs of society..."

Apart from the progressive heritage of previous generations, a tremendous source for the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was the experience

of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which for years had been working under a long-term State plan, under a broad system of educating future scientists and was guided by the need to link the sciences systematically with production and social practice.

This is how the foundations were laid for a new manner of scientific work, under comprehensive and planned control, which became part of the overall transformation of society. The centrally-controlled research base began to overcome the narrow-based and individualistic system of science which had prevailed in the past. The universities, a new network of applied research institutions within different industries, development and design centres and scientific academies became the centres of scientific and technical progress in new important spheres of science, characteristic of the stage when the first phase of the scientific and technological revolution was being prepared.

The period of socialist construction was marked by Party efforts to achieve powerful, plan-based development of science and technology and their application in the exacting tasks and demands of socialist construction. Between 1952 and 1960, the Czechoslovak scientific and research base grew at an unprecedented pace. An important role in this progress was played by the 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in 1954, which dealt in detail, among others, with problems of scientific and technical development. The role of the sciences in the construction of the Czechoslovak scientific and research potential was firmly rooted in the 1960 Constitution of socialist Czechoslovakia, which specifically said: "The State, together with social organizations, gives all-round support to creative activity in the sciences and the arts and strives to provide the working people with an ever broader and more profound education, to encourage their active participation in creative science and art, and sees to it that the results of this activity serve all the people." The supreme Party organs have devoted unflagging attention to the development of the scientific and research base. That explains why the number of workers employed in research and development nearly trebled by 1973.

Workers of the Czechoslovak Scientific and Research Base

Year	(in 1000) Total number of workers	of them university graduates	scientific workers
1955	58	.	.
1960	92	19	2.8
1973	151	41.5	7.5

The socialist State spends 3.7 per cent of its national income on scientific and technical development, which compares well with the outlays of the world's most advanced countries. The absolute amount of the costs spent on scientific and technical development totals nearly 15,000 million crowns, of which about 18 per cent is spent on basic research.

Scientific and technical development is increasingly becoming a factor of intensification in economic growth. As confirmed unequivocally by Soviet experience in the construction of a developed socialist society, as well as by the experience of the other socialist countries, it can be said that 70—90 per cent of the aggregate social labour productivity increment is due to science and its practical application.

Our scientific and technical potential accounts for one per cent of the world's scientific and research base, while Czechoslovakia's share of the world's population amounts to half per cent. This testifies to the relatively high degree of Czechoslovakia's participation in the international division of labour in science and technology.

The past period was marked by a predominantly extensive growth in the development of science and technology. This meant an increasing number of scientific and technical workers and larger allocations for scientific and technical development. It is quite natural that such a growth cannot go on indefinitely. In recent years, therefore, and especially after the 14th Congres of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, increased stress has been aid on making scientific and research work more effective in developing Czechoslovakia's national economy and its socialist society.

The plenary session of the Czechoslovak Communist Party's Central Committee in 1974 was justified in emphasizing that science must be regarded as an important link in the unified system "science — technology — production — application". This system is the result of the scientific and technological revolution under socialist conditions and indicates the important change which has taken place in the social function of science — its transformation into a social productive force.

A special place in the list of achievements of Czechoslovak science and technology is held by the results obtained in Slovakia, where many institutes, laboratories, university worksites came into being and where hundreds of young scientific workers have been trained. The number of scientific and research workers in Slovakia has nearly doubled in the past ten years, and in 1975 it will amount to 24 per cent of the overall Czechoslovak scientific and research base. The situation in Slovakia is a graphic example of the fact that the unity of scientific and technical development and the long-term socio-economic policy is steadily improving.

Socialist integration marks the beginning of a new stage in the development of Czechoslovak science. Czechoslovak science is gradually becoming an inseparable part of the sciences of the socialist countries, making accessible to it qualitatively new possibilities, in keeping with the top standards of scientific and technical progress in the world. Cooperation with scientific institutions in the socialist countries, mainly in the USSR, especially on a bilateral basis, as well as multilateral cooperation with academies in the socialist countries, is creating the best conditions for this. Through direct cooperation with the Soviet Union alone, nearly 300 problems covering more than 50 subjects are being solved. With other countries associated in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance our republic cooperates on 857 scientific and technical problems. Intensification of socialist integration in science and technology is one of the primary ways of speeding up scientific and technical development of the Czechoslovak national economy.

At present, while successfully coping with exacting scientific problems, we must combine organically the advantages of socialism with the scientific and technological revolution, make effective use of the economic and social mechanisms of socialist society to accelerate scientific and technical progress, and on the basis of the scientific and technological revolution create a material and technical base for the further progress of socialist society.

CULTURE

The Oldest Evidences of Culture

Even though the land was first settled in ancient times, as far as we know with certainty, by the Celts — the tribe of the Boii in Bohemia, from which its name is derived, and the Kotins in Slovakia — in the period from the 5th to the 7th centuries the region was fully settled by Slavonic tribes.

The common Slavonic origin of the Czech and Slovak nations explains the close affinity of language and culture, and the close proximity of the two nations formed the basis for Czecho-Slovak fraternal relations, which were determined in the course of history by the common fate and interest of the two nations in the struggle for liberation.

The literature of the country can be traced back without a break to the sixties of the 9th century, when the foundations were laid in the Great Moravian Empire for the book culture of our forefathers. Of course, oral traditions go back much further, they have left no direct traces. We can form an idea of them from indirect sources and from deductions based on material remains.

The earliest Slavonic literary monuments developed on the territory of the Great Moravian Empire. Our older literature dates from ancient times, proceeding up to the middle of the 18th century. The oldest and subsequent Czech literature gave the world such men as Cosmas, Štítný, Hus, Chelčický, Blahoslav and Comenius, personalities which, without doubt, belong to the whole of mankind.

The literature of this period holds a foremost position in European literature as a whole. Not only is its age remarkable but also its content and extent. It evolved over more than 900 years and its evolvement was carried by progressive and revolutionary traditions. A fact which is equally remarkable is the way in which it penetrated to the broadest strata of the respective period.

The oldest literature of the Czechs and Slovaks in fact formed a single whole, but literature in later times developed along different lines in the Czech lands and in Slovakia. Nevertheless, the values created in the two regions were felt to be joint cultural property — for instance the Old Slavonic works of the Great Moravian Empire.

Gothic and Renaissance

After the collapse of the Great Moravian Empire, which had been created in the 9th century at the time when Christianity came to the region, the centre for what was to be the future Czechoslovak State began to develop in Bohemia. The Czechs and the Slovaks were separated politically, but even so contacts continued, especially in the field of culture.

In the 13th century, the Gothic style imported from France found its way into the creative arts. Among the splendid architectural remains from this period are St. Vitus Cathedral, the Charles Bridge, Karlštejn Castle, a number of Prague churches and various structures in Prague Castle, Zvíkov Castle and, in Slovakia, Košice Cathedral and the castles at Banská Štiavnica, Spiš, Trenčín and Zvolen.

Czech Gothic art reached its height in the second half of the 14th century. As the residence of the Holy Roman Emperor, Prague became the most important city in Central Europe. The famous Gothic paintings and sculptures by Master Theodoricus of Prague and the anonymous painters from Vyšebrod and Třeboň are unrivalled examples from this period. In literature, the first works written in Czech language appeared, the most important of them being the Dalimil chronicle in verse from the beginning of the 14th century.

Charles University in Prague was founded in 1348 as the first university in Central Europe; here John Hus was a professor and, later, Rector (1409). Charles University played an important role in maintaining relations between the Czechs and the Slovaks, for many Slovaks studied there and later spread the Hussite ideology throughout Hungary. As a direct result of the Hussite learning in Slovakia, Czech was adopted as the literary language of Slovakia.

In the period following the death of Hus, the Czech language and Czech national culture flourished, and culture in general was brought closer to the people in the Czech lands and in Slovakia. The first book printed in Czech was published in 1468. Czech was used as a diplomatic language in Poland, Lithuania and Hungary.

After the middle of the 15th century, humanism began to appear in our literature and the Renaissance style in the visual arts. The juridical works of Viktorín Kornel of Všehrdy were an important piece of scholarship.

In the late 15th and early 16th centuries, Late Gothic was the prevalent style and examples of it can be found in Prague (the Powder Tower, the Vladislav Hall) and at Kutná Hora (St. Barbara's Cathedral). The most outstanding Slovak sculptor at the beginning of the 16th century was Pavol of Levoča.

Renaissance art came to predominate in the country around the middle of the 16th century. Most of the buildings dating from this period are the work of Italian masters; the most striking of them is the Summer Palace of Queen Anne in the grounds of Prague Castle. Many Czech and Slovak towns were rebuilt in the Renaissance style.

Baroque

The Battle of the White Mountain also struck a heavy blow to Czech culture. The country lost its most creative people from the ranks of the intelligentsia when they were forced to seek refuge abroad. They included world-famous people such as Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius), known as the father of modern education. Literary Czech and the national literature went into a decline.

In the creative arts, after the Battle of the White Mountain, the Baroque style came to the fore and many churches were built in this style (for instance, the Church of St. Nicholas in Prague). The most important Czech painters were Karel Škréta in the 17th century and Petr Brandl in the 18th century. Matthias Braun was the most gifted sculptor and Kilián Dientzenhofer the greatest architect. The composers of Czech music at that time included František Míča, Jiří Benda, Josef Mysliveček and many others.

General cultural development in Slovakia was not halted during the turbulent 16th and 17th centuries. The realism of the Renaissance style, which predominated in the visual arts in the 16th century, was supplanted in the middle of the 17th century by the illusive Baroque, which was favoured by the Church. Changes occurred in literature under the influence of the Reformation and humanism. The Lutherans replaced Latin in church services with Old Czech, while the Calvinists favoured East Slovak and the Catholic clergy West Slovak. Written records survive in Slovak dialects, a mixture of Czech and Slovak, and sometimes even in Polish, in addition, of course, to Latin. The printed word, for example Luther's Catechism, helped refine the spoken language.

The National Revival

At the end of the 18th and in the first half of the 19th centuries, when the advancing capitalist order was accompanied everywhere in Europe by strong nationalist stirrings, a national revival took place in the Czech lands. At the beginning, its

main concern was linguistic, for in order to create a modern Czech nation literary Czech had to be revived and invigorated, but the issues at stake were in fact much wider. The national revival in Slovakia came much later and took a very different course.

The Czech and Slovak national revivals necessitated the introduction of modern means of educating the people, as well as of modern literature, science and arts, because only in such a way could the nation begin to assert itself. Czech and Slovak writers did much to raise the level of culture among the people. At the same time, a growing number of Czech and Slovak scholars wrote in defence of the national language and contributed important scholarly works about the achievements of Czech culture and the glorious history of the nation. Josef Dobrovský, one of the pioneers of modern Czech scholarship, laid firm foundations for studying the grammar of modern Czech and for exploring Slavonic literature in general.

A number of cultural institutions were founded at the beginning of the 19th century, the most important being the Royal Technical College, established in 1803 as the first school of its kind in Europe, the Prague Conservatory (1811) and the Royal Bohemian Museum (1818), which later became the National Museum.

In the 1820's, at a time of increased national oppression of the Slovaks, the Slovak national revivalist Jan Kollár put forth his ideas of national equality and the need for mutual awareness and understanding among the Slavonic peoples; they became the driving force behind the Slovak national revival movement and influenced the young generation of Slovak intellectuals headed by Ľudovít Štúr (in the 1830's and 1840's). By this time the linguistic and literary movement had changed into a national political movement. A separate literary language was worked out. Štúr and his followers founded the first Slovak political newspaper in the mid-1840's, published literary journals and popular informative periodicals and did much to shape the Slovak national consciousness.

In Bohemia at this time the young generation of national revivalists, influenced by the Romantic movement, was making itself felt (Karel Hynek Mácha, Josef Jungmann, František Ladislav Čelakovský). It was then, too, that the Czech historian, František Palacký, the generous organizer of scholarly and cultural activities and founder of the first Czech scholarly journal (1827), started publishing his work. The Slovak scholar Pavel Josef Šafařík, in his life work Slavonic Antiquities, revealed the ancient origins of the Slavonic peoples and established their equality with the other nations of Europe.

Drama and music also had a powerful influence on national awareness and feeling. In 1826, the first original Czech play, František Škroup's The Tinker was staged. The most famous playwrights at the time were Václav Kliment Klicpera and Josef Kajetán Tyl; the song "Kde domov můj" ("Where is my home"), which later became the Czech national anthem, was heard for the first time in 1834 in Tyl's play Fidlovačka. Similarly, in 1844, Janko Matúška composed the song "Nad Tatrou sa blýska" ("Lightening flashes over the Tatras") — now the Slovak national anthem.

At the time of the national revival, the development of cultural life in Slovakia met with far more obstacles than did Czech cultural development. The main problem was the creation of a single literary language. The foundations for modern literary Slovak were laid in 1843 when the young generation of Slovak intellectuals under Ľudovít Štúr took the central Slovak dialect as a basis for the literary language. The formation of modern literary Slovak was the final step in asserting the national identity of the Slovaks.

The Turn of the Century

In the bourgeois revolution of 1848—1849, the Czech nation acted as an independent political force for the first time in 200 years. The oppressive years of the Bach era were enlivened by the barbed witticisms of the dauntless journalist, poet and satirist Karel Havlíček Borovský and the depth of feeling and beauty of language in the poetry of Karel Jaromír Erben and the prose of Božena Němcová. Later came Jan Neruda's songs of patriotism, the cultural events organized and praised by the writer Vítězslav Hálek and the impressive works of Adolf Heyduk, Karolina Světlá, Václav Šolc and Andrej Sládkovič. Beginning in the 1870's, there appeared the poet Josef Václav Sládek, who carried on in the tradition of Neruda, Svatopluk Čech, with his rousing anti-Austrian verses, Jaroslav Vrchlický, a highly accomplished poet with an immense output of verse, Alois Jirásek, who raised historical fiction to a high level and Petr Bezruč, whose "Silesian Songs" displayed a rare delicacy. Other great figures in Czech and Slovak literature included Julius Zeyer, Jakub Arbes, Zikmund Winter, Václav Beneš Třebízský, Karel Václav Rais, Antonín Sova, Josef Svatopluk Machar, Otokar Březina, Antal Stašek, Tereza Nováková and Fráňa Šrámek,.

In Slovakia, writers of the generation of Ľudovít Štúr, who were Romantic authors, based their works on popular legends and deliberately placed literature in the service of the national revival and the fight against feudalism (Janko Kráľ, Andrej Sládkovič, Samo Chalúpka, Ján Kalinčiak, Ján Botto). In the 1880's and 1890's, realistic tendencies appeared in literature, especially in the works of Pavol Országh-Hviezdoslav, Martin Kukučín, Svetozár Hurban Vajanský. At the close of the 19th century, the works of the critical realists (Jozef Gregor Tajovský, Janko Jesenký, Timrava) exposed the deep contradictions in society, while the poetry of Ivan Krasko expressed a sense of sorrow at man's fate in capitalist society.

The musical genius of the Czech people reached its summit in the works of Bedřich Smetana, perhaps the greatest Czech artist of all times. He made Czech opera, piano works, symphonies, songs and other forms of musical creation the equal of any in the world. The immensely prolific Antonín Dvořák enriched the nation's musical heritage with more broadly Slavonic features, while his symphonies and chamber music won world recognition. Zdeněk Fibich put his great talents to best use in the sphere of opera and music drama. Most of the compositions by Josef Bohuslav Foerster, Vítězslav Novák, Josef Suk and Leoš Janáček date from the 20th century.

The founder of modern Czech painting is Josef Mánes. Karel Purkyně is noted for his monumental realism, the proud world of the Southern Slav warriors was brilliantly caught by Jaroslav Čermák, the greatness of the Czech past was depicted by Mikoláš Aleš, and all branches of the art, in particular drawing and graphics, were thoroughly mastered by Max Švabinský.

The most outstanding Czech sculptors of the period were Josef Václav Myslbek and Jan Štursa.

The authors who arrived on the literary scene at the turn of the century turned their attention to the working class (Karel Toman, Fráňa Šrámek, František Gellner, Jaroslav Hašek). They also attempted to discover positive values in life by turning to nature and trying to penetrate the feelings and thoughts of man engulfed by modern civilization (Stanislav Kostka Neumann). Novels that contained a broad criticism of society and created their subjects with great psychological subtlety appeared both before and after World War I (Anna Marie Tilschová, Karel Matěj Čapek-Chod, Božena Benešová). Some writers of the new generation voiced a sharp protest against the old society (Ivan Olbracht, Marie Majerová).

After World War I, the leading literature in the bourgeois Republic was that which hailed the class struggle of the proletariat. Poetry based on the ideas of proletarian literature tried to express the revolutionary vistas open to the society (Jiří Wolker, S. K. Neumann, Josef Hora). In prose, the authors attempted to present a positive hero — a revolutionary (Marie Majerová, Ivan Olbracht). The literary critics stressed the need for art to have a class character (Zdeněk Nejedlý, Jiří Wolker).

This period saw the emergence of progressive groups of artists; after the creation of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in 1921, left-wing cultural magazines supported its policies.

In 1920, avant-garde artists from all fields came together in the Devětsil group. The poets among them, who included Vítězslav Nezval and Konstantin Biebl, endeavoured to portray the diversity and beauty of life through sensitive perception and by giving full play to their imagination.

In Slovakia, a group of progressive and revolutionary intellectuals was active in the period between the two world wars which brought together political figures, writers, artists and academics who adopted the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism and identified themselves with the policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (Ladislav Novomeský, Daniel Okáli, Eduard Urx, Peter Jilemnický, Vladimír Clementis, Ján Rob-Poničan and Fraňo Kráľ).

In 1921, Zdeněk Nejedlý founded a "progressive journal for public questions" called "Var", which attracted progressive working class and student youth. In 1928, F. X. Šalda, the founder of "Tvorba", a weekly devoted to politics, culture and economics, protested against the lack of freedom of the press by placing this magazine at the disposal of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia; Julius Fučík, on whose initiative this step had been taken, became its editor, Bedřich Václavek edited the socialist art revues Index and U-Blok in Brno.

Prose frequently returned to the terrible experiences of the war and demonstrated, from various points of view, the senselessness of the butchery of war, combining hatred of war with criticism of the capitalist order (Jaroslav Hašek, Vladislav Vančura, Karel Konrád, Karel Čapek).

Under the pressure of the economic crisis in the thirties and under the influence of Soviet literature, greater stress came to be placed on the social mission in literature; this trend was encouraged by the new Marxist critics (Bedřich Václavek, Julius Fučík). Class aspects of the complicated social relations in contemporary society made their appearance in the works of Ivan Olbracht, Marie Majerová, Miloš Václav Kratochvíl, Karel Nový and Marie Pujmanová. As fascism came to be more and more of a threat to the Republic, an awareness of the social mission of poetry was increasingly evident in the works of Vítězslav Nezval, František Halas, and Josef Hora.

However, the development of literature was forcibly interrupted by the Nazi occupation. Writers were compelled to express their love for their country and their faith in the future indirectly, by placing emphasis on the greatness of the nation's past (Vladislav Vančura). In addition, prose turned to the psychological analysis of the individual (Václav Řezáč). Julius Fučík's Report from the Gallows, a harrowing testimony of the courage of an individual and a Communist — was written in prison.

After the creation of the bourgeois Republic in 1918, literary development in Slovakia was hindered by the unfavourable socio-economic structure of Slovakia. In the twenties, the work of critical realists who looked back to the past was predominant. Both poetry and prose reflected the contemporary developments in Czech and world literature. But even at that time, a literature bound up with the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat was taking shape. In the thirties, this kind of literature came into its own, and the

works of Peter Jilemnický and Fraňo Kráľ became the basis for socialist realism in Slovakia. In the brief period of the so-called Slovak State many poets abandoned their formalist experiments and, by drawing closer to their native land, found the road to reality and to realistic writing. They voiced their protest against the fascist regime in various allegorical works and in verses distributed in a clandestine way, and many writers took part in the Slovak National Uprising.

Culture under Socialism

A new cultural era began in 1945, and subsequently in 1948.

The victory of the working people, the liberation of labour from exploitation, and the creation of socialist relations brought culture close to the masses and made it possible to expand the socialist cultural revolution. The cultural heritage of our nations has become the property of the people, and works of art have appeared which reflect the revolutionary spirit and creative effort of the working people. As early as at its 9th Congress in 1949, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia adopted a programme in which the socialist cultural revolution formed part of the general line of building socialism.

The present cultural policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is based on a long and continuous tradition. It links up with the progressive proletarian culture that was asserted by such progressive Czech and Slovak writers as Jiří Wolker, Zdeněk Nejedlý, Julius Fučík, Ladislav Novomeský, Peter Jilemnický, Bedřich Václavek, Fraňo Kráľ and Rudolf Jašík, and is working towards the goals that have always formed part of the Party programme.

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia believes that purposeful efforts directed towards making culture an active factor in the building of the socialist society, towards giving it an effective share in the great struggle of socialism against capitalism, and making it the property of all the people are an organic part of the socialist revolution.

The introduction of socialist cultural changes is a long-term process. It requires not only rational thinking on a scientific basis but the inner transformation of the freely developing man who is thinking creatively and acting with a sense of commitment to his society. In this process, culture in the broadest sense of the word, i.e. science, the arts, a high standard of working and living environment, education and cultural education work, becomes a social necessity.

Under socialism, the creative abilities of many uniquely gifted persons have been able to be fully expressed. Various trends and forms of cultural activity and artistic creation have been brought into mutual conformity, mostly united in their awareness of their progressive mission in the society.

The arts have succeeded, in their best works, in capturing the whole complexity of modern life, in expressing the humanistic nature of the endeavours being made by the socialist society in all spheres.

The increasing unity of socialist culture and the arts has been reflected in the relationship between Czech and Slovak culture. The remarkable blossoming of culture and the arts in Slovakia bears witness to the unprecedented vigour of the creative forces of the Slovak nation. Czech and Slovak culture have formed a rich and unified cultural whole. It is no longer a question merely of two national cultures growing closer together, but rather of united goals and tasks which themselves influence and inspire the two national cultures. Czech and Slovak culture and art at the same time draw on their own traditions, expressing the nature and the development of two equal socialist nations.

The movement of the society towards an advanced stage of socialism has resulted in substantial changes not only in the structure of the production process but also in the character of work, people's way of life and the style of life of the different social groups. It is creating new cultural needs as well as favourable conditions for the development of culture in all spheres.

An especially important mission in the broad field of culture falls, in addition to science and education, to the arts, which make their own specific contribution towards expanding man's awareness, stimulating his creative ability, shaping his moral outlook and cultivating his aesthetic perception and feeling, his taste.

In the history of the Czech and Slovak nations the arts have played a vitally important role — in a directly political sense — on more than one occasion. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia gained great experience between the two wars in using its revolutionary programme to inspire artists and encourage new trends. It was able to unify the cultural front in the struggle against fascism, for social justice and national liberation. In the era of the construction of socialism, the Party is continuing its tradition of joining forces with the progressive artistic movements.

At the 14th Congress, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia asserted once again that it sees the creation of artistic values and the raising of the cultural standards of the broadest sectors of the working people as an important factor in shaping socialist man and in deepening socialist social relations.

The socialist cultural revolution has already resulted in a number of important achievements in the arts. During the construction of the socialist society, many excellent artists have developed and matured and have united their life and work with the revolutionary struggle of the people, with the ideals of socialism and Communism. The progressive character of artistic works was described by the outstanding representative of Czech culture, Vladislav Vančura, in the following way: "The star of Communism is a new star. The concerted endeavour of Communism is giving rise to a new style, and outside of it there is no modernity."

No capitalist country can match the socialist countries, including Czechoslovakia, in the degree of democratic access to culture or in the development of culture. Czechoslovakia, for example, has the most highly developed network of theatres in the world, an elaborate system of cultural, art and educational establishments, numerous music ensembles and folk song and dance groups, special interest organizations, tens of thousands of public libraries, historical monuments and hundreds of galleries and museums.

In Czechoslovakia, for instance, a total of 80 million books, representing about 6,500 book titles are published annually. Czechoslovakia's achievement in the field of publishing were commented on by "Unesco Features", the United Nations educational periodical: "This output is exceptional in a country with only 14 million people. Books are cheap and therefore within reach of a wide group of readers."

The socialist society is creating all the conditions for the successful advancement of culture. In the past ten years, the State's annual public expenditures on culture have grown by 235.2 per cent; in Slovakia, for example, they have risen from 368 million crowns to 865 million crowns.

Books and Readers

In 1971—1973 a total of almost 152 million books, representing more than 12,000 titles, were published in the Czech lands; the figures for Slovakia were 7,805 titles and over 66 million copies. There were 782 original works by Czech authors published in the Czech lands, and 453 by Slovak authors in Slovakia. In the sphere of literature for children and

young people, 1,132 works were published in the Czech lands almost 700 of them original, while Slovak publishing houses issued 701 publications for children and young people of which more than half were original Slovak works.

The first libraries came into being in this country in the 10th century, in monasteries and in schools.

The University Library, set up in 1622, was originally a library founded by Charles IV. The first inventory of the library possessions, listing 204 manuscripts, dates back to his days.

The University Library contains also the most important works of our own and world science, which have been gathered at this institution for more than six centuries. It contains 1,500,000 volumes, of which about 4,000 are incunabula and about 5,000 manuscripts. The collections include such valuable books as a precious 10th century Codex and books by Štítný and Hus.

In the complex of ancient buildings of the Prague Clementinum, there is also a specialized Slavonic library established fifty years ago as a centre for studying the history and culture of all the Slavonic nations, both in the past and in the present. It contains around 560,000 volumes, periodicals and newspapers in all Slavonic languages. The library was founded by several prominent Czechoslovak scholars in Slavonic studies, who helped to accumulate this unique collection of Slavonic literature. The library was founded with a collection of 12,000 volumes, but from the beginning the intention was to obtain all important literature necessary for scholarly research on the Slavonic nations, their culture and languages, from the oldest available written records up to the literature of the present day. The library is used annually by 30,000 readers. It also provides written information, carries out research work and compiles lists of source material for experts working in many branches of the sciences and humanities.

In 1919 the University Library in Bratislava contained 84,826 volumes; only 20 of them were

Slovak works dating from the 17th century. In 1970, 213,000 volumes out of 1,248,000 were Slovak works.

The Municipal Public Library in Prague has 160 branches scattered throughout the capital. Over a period of 80 years it has loaned around 130 million books. These would fill the content of a rectangular of the size of a 35-storeyed sky-scraper with a base of 1 sq.km.

The library of the National Museum in Prague administers around 200 libraries situated in 50 historic buildings in Bohemia and Moravia; their collections include a total of 1,000,000 rare books and manuscripts. For instance, the historic library in the monastery at Teplá (near Karlovy Vary), which is open to the public and which contains 80,000 volumes accumulated over a full seven centuries, has 537 Czech, Latin and German incunabula. Rare items that are on display there include the most important work by Nicolaus Copernicus, De Revolutionibus Orbium Caelestium, published in Basle in the 16th century.

The origins of publishing in Czechoslovakia go back to the 16th century and are connected with the development of book printing. Publishing houses in Czechoslovakia are now either national enterprises or fall under the jurisdiction of cultural bodies or self-governing institutions.

Most of the Czech and Slovak publishing houses are specialized. Most classic and contemporary Czech and Slovak literature is published by the Československý spisovatel in Prague and Slovenský spisovatel in Bratislava, while translated literature is issued by Odeon in Prague and Tatran in Bratislava.

The most important progressive literature from the past and the present, both prose and poetry, is published in Czechoslovakia in large editions. The most popular modern prose writers are Vladimír Mináč, František Kubka, Jarmila Glazarová, Vladimír Neff, František Hečko, Alfonz Bednár, Margita Figuli, Josef Toman and his wife Miroslava Tomanová, Jan Otčenášek, Zdeněk Pluhař, Bohumil Říha and Norbert Frýd, while among the poets the favourites are particularly Ladislav Novomeský, Miroslav Válek, Vojtech Mihálik, Andrej Plávka, Vítězslav Nezval, Josef Hora, František Halas, Pavol Horov, Ján Kostra, Josef Kainar, Ivan Skála, Jan Pilař, Miroslav Florian, Ján Smrek and Ján Poničan.

Theatre and Film

Conditions for the expansion of the Czech theatre were created in the sixties of the last century. In 1862, the first permanent Czech theatre — the Prozatímní (Provisional) Theatre — was opened in Prague and other theatres gradually followed. There was also an increase in the number of travelling theatre companies and amateur dramatic groups and, from the seventies on, in the number of workers' amateur performances, whose beginnings date back to the days of national revival. In 1850, the efforts began to have a National Theatre built in Prague, and this soon became the most important task of the national liberation movement, for it was seen by the people and the democratic intelligentsia as a political act of crucial significance.

The National Theatre in Prague was opened in 1883 and the National Theatre in Brno in 1884. In 1907 another large playhouse was opened — the Municipal Theatre in the Prague district of Vinohrady.

In the first years of the bourgeois Republic, under the strong influence of the Soviet theatre, the foundations were laid for Czech proletarian theatre. Progressive cultural workers, headed by Zdeněk Nejedlý and Jindřich Honzl, came out with the demand for the socialization of the theatre. Jindřich Honzl organized worker's amateur recitation groups in Prague, and their activities culminated in a mass performance at the first workers' Spartakiad in Prague in 1921. In 1925, members of the Devětsil literary group established the avant-garde and experimental Liberated Theatre. In the twenties, the Čapek brothers and František Langer held a leading position in the establishment theatre. Jindřich Honzl, Jiří Frejka and Emil František Burian devised a number of experimental productions in their search for a socialist theatre. In the confrontation with the fascist menace in the thirties, a prominent role was played by the Liberated Theatre of Ježek, Voskovec and Werich and the D 34 — D 41 of E. F. Burian; the former presented political revues and the latter gave a topical slant to stage classics and put on modern plays. This was one of the most fruitful periods of the Czech theatre.

The development of the Czech theatre was halted by the war, and in 1944 the Nazis actually closed down the theatres.

In Slovakia, the first written records about the theatre date from the 15th century. The growing national movement in the 1830's was accompanied by the emergence of amateur theatres.

In 1920, the Slovak National Theatre opened in Bratislava; in 1944, the progressively orientated Slovak Chamber Theatre was founded in Martin.

The most impressive achievement in the field of Slovak dramatic art during World War II were the activities of the Front-line Theatre in 1944, at the time of the Slovak National Uprising. The ensemble, consisting of ten actors, both professionals and amateurs, was founded and headed by Andrej Bagár. It performed its two-hour programme to soldiers and partisans in many places throughout the territory held by the insurgents. The group gave its last performance at the field hospital at Staré Hory on October 26, 1944, after which the members of the ensemble left for the mountains together with the partisans.

At the present time, Slovak dramatic art is passing through a very creative period, with many new works written by middle-aged and younger playwrights (Ján Kákoš, Ján Solovič, Ivan Bukovčan, Osvald Zahradník, Štefan Sokol.)

After the liberation in 1945, the people's democratic State proclaimed the theatre to be public cultural property, with an important role to play in the education of socialist man, and so abolished the system of private theatres. The 1948 Act on the theatre gave legal expression to the revolutionary achievements of the Czech and Slovak theatre, which was put fully in the service of socialism.

There are now 44 permanent theatres with 74 ensembles in the Czech lands, of which 13 are in Prague where 24 ensembles perform on 23 stages. A total of 67 stages are in constant use, with accommodation for a total audience of 35,000. In 1972, almost 8 million persons visited the theatres, paying 99 million crowns for tickets, while capital investments and other expenditures connected with running the theatres in the Czech lands amounted to 423 million crowns. In Slovakia, the six permanent theatres that existed in 1948 were visited by 712,000 persons; in 1973, 1,740,000 persons visited the 20 theatres in permanent use.

The Czechoslovak cinema industry has passed through several important stages. In the period running from 1898 to 1918, Bohemia was one of the first countries in the world to be producing not only documentary films but also short comedies. Systematic production started in Prague even before World War I.

In 1918—1930 the silent era of our cinema was at its height. The post-war boom gave rise to the first permanent studio. The Slovak cinema industry, which was only just being created, won its first international laurels at that time with the early work of the documentary film-maker Karel Plicka.

The progressive line of Czechoslovak cinema in the thirties was strengthened by the contributions of prominent writers (Vladislav Vančura, Vítězslav Nezval, Ivan Olbracht, Karel Nový, Karel Čapek and Karel Poláček) and men of the theatre (Jindřich Honzl, Jiří Voskovec and Jan Werich). The best works of critical realism depicted the great economic crisis and came out against the rise of fascism.

The true development of Czechoslovak films did not start until after the liberation of the country in 1945; that year the cinema industry was nationalized and this removed all obstacles to free artistic creation. Czechoslovak films found their way to all parts of the world. Since 1946, International Film Festivals have been held in Karlovy Vary. Czechoslovak documentary films have been highly praised at home and abroad, and Jiří Trnka, Hermína Týrlová and Karel Zeman have all produced famous puppet films.

The expansion of film production in the period of socialism has been accompanied by a growth in the number of cinemas. There are now 2,376 permanent cinemas with a seating capacity of 682,000 in the Czech lands. In 1972, a total of 71 million persons visited the cinemas. The number of permanent cinemas in Slovakia has grown from 361 in 1948 to 1,100 in 1973, and cinema-goers in 1973 numbered 24,770, 000.

Music

The tradition of Czech hymns of folk origin gave rise to the most important Czech music of the 15th century — the hymns of the Hussite period. In the 18th century, schoolmasters in teaching and composing music formed a solid basis for Czech musical accomplishments. However, the true creator of Czech national music did not arrive on the scene until the 1860's: Bedřich Smetana, famous above all for his operas and concert works. In addition to him there was Antonín Dvořák, with his great symphonic and chamber music, and Zdeněk Fibich who composed music dramas for the stage.

The most important composers of modern Czech music in the post-Smetana era include Josef Bohuslav Foerster, Leoš Janáček, Vítězslav Novák, Josef Suk and Otakar Ostrčil. The works of these composers determined the shape of Czech music from the 1890's to the end of World War I and, in some cases, for a long time thereafter. Though their styles were diverse, the music was based on the traditions of Czech national music. A new generation of composers, all of them taught or influenced by these composers, took over after World War I (Emil Axman, Otakar Jeremiáš, Rudolf Karel, Jaroslav Křička, Ladislav Vycpálek and Otakar Zich, and later Pavel Bořkovec, Emil František Burian, Antonín Hába, Jaroslav Ježek, Iša Krejčí and Bohuslav Martinů).

After World War II, efforts were started for the new Czech music of the era of socialism. This trend was determined in the first post-war decades by the works of Václav Dobiáš, Jan Kapr, Josef Stanislav, Jan Seidl, Boleslav Vomáčka and of the younger ones Jaroslav Doubrava, Radim Drejsl, Jan Hanuš and Jiří Pauer.

An assessment of the development of Czech and Slovak music in the post-war period reveals that each of them passed through a different stage of development. Czech music had behind it the experience of the left avant-garde of the twenties and thirties and the precarious creative period of the antifascist struggle during the Nazi occupation. After the war, Slovak national music achieved a development such as it had never known previously: the Slovak national opera came into existence and there was a flowering of musical compositions of all genres. At the present time, the main Slovak composers are Eugen Suchoň, Ján Cikker and Alexander Moyzes. The creative flourishing represents the culmination of the national revival in this field, and also reflects the success of efforts to develop music of a socialist character.

Czechoslovak music has come to be performed abroad to an unprecedented degree. Czechoslovak concert performers have been very successful in many music competitions in Europe and America. Soloists, chamber groups and symphony orchestras have visited most of the countries in the world and all of the continents. The Czech Philharmonic has played throughout Europe and in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China and India. The operas of Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák, Leoš Janáček, Eugen Suchoň and Ján Cikker are frequently performed abroad. Eugen Suchoň's Krútňava was the first modern Czechoslovak opera which has been performed in the Soviet Union, Poland, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and in many other countries.

Prague Spring, an international music festival, one of the largest and most famous European festivals of this type, has been held in Prague every year since 1946.

In 1974, the Year of Czech Music was celebrated, and UNESCO included in its annual list of notable figures in the history of culture four Czech composers: Václav Jan Tomášek, Josef Suk, Bedřich Smetana and Oskar Nedbal.

The Visual Arts

It was not until the close of the 17th century and the first half of the 18th century that outstanding figures appeared in Czech painting — Karel Škréta, Petr Brandl and Václav Rainer, all of whom created unique and highly valuable works through the strength of their own talents and efforts, and at the same time established a new national tradition. The Prague Academy of Art was founded in 1800. The founder of Czech national painting was Josef Mánes, whose deepest source of inspiration was the Czech and Slovak people. The first consistent Czech realist was Karel Purkyně. The great works of Josef Navrátil grew out of the traditions of the late 18th century. The "Generation of the National Theatre" was able to draw on the works of Mánes; the most important of them was Mikoláš Aleš, a painter who was truly of the people and truly national. Czech landscape painters included Adolf Kosárek, Julius Mařák and Antonín Chittussi.

A new generation came to the fore at the end of the 19th century, following on from impressionism and symbolism and seeking modern forms of expression (Antonín Slavíček, Jan Preisler and Max Švabinský). Original forms of expression, which won European acclaim, marked the works of Bohumil Kubišta, Josef Čapek, Rudolf Kremlička and Václav Špála.

The founders of modern Czech painting (Václav Špála, Rudolf Kremlička, Josef Lada, Václav Rabas, Bohumil Kubišta, Vlastimil Rada, Josef Čapek, Jan Zrzavý, Antonín Procházka, Pravoslav Kotík, Emil Filla, František Bidlo and Otakar Kubín) first became prominent in the 1920's, and their works laid the foundations for the progressive tradition which came to the fore at the time of the struggle against advancing fascism, of the threat to the independence of the State and in the period of Hitlerite occupation.

The visual arts in Slovakia in the 19th century were influenced at first by Vienna, and later by Prague (Peter Bohúň, Jozef Božetech Klemens). Personal forms of expression were achieved by Martin Benka, Cyprián Majerník, Ľudovít Fulla, Miloš Alexander Bazovský, Mikuláš Galanda, Koloman Sokol, Vincent Hložník, Július Nemčík, Imro Weiner-Kráľ, Orest Dubay, Ján Mudroch, Jozef Kostka and Jano Kulich.

During the period of the construction of socialism, work in the visual arts is also directed towards the requirements of socialist culture. The most influential Czech painters of this period include František Tichý, Josef Brož, Antonín Pelc, Karel Svolinský, Karel Souček, Jan Slavíček, Adolf Zábranský, Miloslav Holý, Vojtěch Sedláček, Jan Bauch and Bohumír Dvorský. Artists work on public commissions and enter competitions arranged by State enterprises. The Union of Artists arranges large survey exhibitions and one-man shows of work by its members. The National Gallery in Prague and the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava purchase works for their collections. The system of regional galleries makes it possible for the work of modern artists to be collected and displayed to the public in all regional centres. Among the most successful regional galleries are those in Hluboká, Litoměřice, Karlovy Vary, Liberec, Jihlava, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Ostrava, Brno, Bratislava, Martin and Košice. The 40 Czechoslovak galleries have a total of 700,000 works of art. They are visited by some four milion people per year.

Architecture

Under socialism, architects hold a special position among the intellectuals. Their work is inseparably linked with the construction of the material basis of socialism and the improvement of the living environment of the society. The architect must be both an artist and an expert in science, technology and aesthetics. This makes his activites both demanding and extremely important socially.

The current generation of architects is faced with the task of developing a socialist architecture that is qualitatively different from the architecture of the preceding social formations. The work of the architects should reflect the cultural and economic level of the socialist order in Czechoslovakia.

Socialist society is concerned with overcoming the damage done to the environment by past developments and, more important, with avoiding such damage. The 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia set very specific tasks in the sphere of shaping the environment, most importantly housing construction, the solving of transport problems (especially in the capital city of Prague), and the solving of building problems in some difficult regions such as the northern Bohemian coal basin, Ostrava and other agglomerations. The 14th Congress of the Communist Party stressed the exceptional importance of capital construction, in view of its general extent and its long-term influence on the future development of the society. This entails important tasks for architects since their work is a dominant factor in shaping the environment.

Over the next ten years, more than 100,000 million crowns will be spent on the construction and equipment of buildings in Prague. It is envisaged that investments will total as much as 32 million crowns per square kilometre. This construction work is taking place in the period of developing the construction of the socialist society, so that the Czechoslovak capital will contain a record of its growth in this historic epoch.

Monuments and Museums

The new socialist concept of caring for monuments is based on the fundamental thesis that the cultural heritage of the nation belongs to the people, and every effort is made to incorporate cultural monuments into contemporary life. A unique role in the implementation of the cultural policy falls to the National Committees. This is an immense task because Czechoslovakia has over 40,000 architectural monuments and other items of special historical interest for which a cultural or educational use must be found. Every year, the State spends 200 million crowns on repair work and maintenance of cultural monuments and buildings in addition to the expenditures covered by the budgets of National Committees.

The Government proclaims the nation's most important historical monuments to be national cultural monuments.

In the Czech lands there are 35 national cultural monuments and in Slovakia 51. They include Prague Castle and its environs, the Czech Coronation Jewels, Mount Říp and St. George's Rotunda, the Slavonic fortified settlement in Mikulčice, the Castle Rotunda in Znojmo, the Přemysl Palace in Olomouc, Karlštejn Castle, Litomyšl Château, Bratislava Castle and its environs, the Town Hall in Prešov where the Slovak Soviet Republic was declared, Dukla and Svidník and a number of the most interesting and beautiful historical wooden churches in Slovakia.

Socialist society is concerned with preserving these monuments as evidence of the continuity of the historic development of nature and society, and therefore provides for the activities of museums. There are 16 million objects deposited in 366 Czechoslovak museums. The expositions and exhibitions are visited by an average of ten million people per year. In 1972, these establishments held 1,334 exhibitions, which were seen by 7 million visitors, 17.6 per cent of them from other countries.

People's Art

A national festival of the activities of amateur hobby groups is being held in 1974—1975, to culminate as part of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army. In all, there will be a total of 2,000 events (about 60 of them national, 400 regional and 1,600 district) as part of the competitions, festivals, exhibitions and other events concerned with the activities of hobby groups. They cover classical music and pop music, ball-room and folk dancing, pantomime, theatre, puppet theatre, recitation, photography, film and the visual arts.

Since 1970 the number of amateur hobby groups has grown by one third, from 10,000 to 13,300, and the number of members in these clubs has increased by more than 50 per cent, from 167,000 to 235,000.

Cultural education is one of the key elements in developing a socialist life style, the most important feature of which should be selfless and creative social activity.

Amateur hobby groups have now taken on important social functions in the fields of ideology, cultural education, aesthetic education, instruction and recreation and in bringing people together generally. Such activities have always been closely connected with the efforts of Czechoslovak schools and teachers. The Ministry of Education looks upon them as an exceptionally important form of ideological, moral and aesthetic training for children and young people.

Amateur hobby groups have their own specific place in implementing the resolutions of the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. They provide a means for giving encouragement to talented young people, training their natural abilities and guiding them towards a strengthening of socialist activity in the arts.

It was not accidental that, following the victory of the working class over the bourgeoisie in 1948, and soon after the Congress of Trade Unions and Works' Councils and the Congress of Peasant Commissions, representatives of the intelligentsia also met for a national cultural congress. At that time, Klement Gottwald set forth two closely related tasks: to make all the great treasures of the past accessible to the people, thus opening wide the gates to knowledge and beauty, and to create a new culture for the people which they would understand and come to love.

In completing the process of consolidation, the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia linked up in its programme with the accomplishments of February 1948, with its revolutionary spirit, in the sphere of culture and the arts as well. The full support of the Party and the socialist State was again proclaimed for art that would really serve socialism, form a part of the revolutionary transformations and help create new socialist social relations and a new socialist man.

THE MASS MEDIA

The Czechoslovak press propagates the interests of the socialist society, cooperates in fostering the socialist awareness of citizens in the spirit of the Constitution and the ideas of the policy of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, voices and helps to create socialist public opinion and assists in raising the political and cultural level of citizens.

Periodicals are published by political parties, State bodies, social organizations associated in the National Front and scientific and cultural institutions. Altogether 1,198 publications are issued in Czechoslovakia at present, including 28 dailies, 276 weeklies and 406 monthlies; these exceed 17 million copies per issue.

Each political party has its press organ. The central organ of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is "Rudé právo", the first issue of which appeared on September 21, 1920.

The central organ of the Communist Party of Slovakia is the daily newspaper "Pravda". It links up with the tradition of the Slovak weekly "Pravda chudoby", which began publication on September 15, 1920. The first issue of "Pravda" came out on October 1, 1925.

"Rudé právo" and "Pravda" were frequently banned and harassed, especially at times when sharp attacks were being made on the working class. For this reason, the history of "Rudé právo" and "Pravda" reflects the struggle of the Czechoslovak working class and its vanguard — the Communist Party.

Dailies are published by the Czechoslovak People's Party ("Lidová demokracie"), the Czechoslovak Socialist Party ("Svobodné slovo") and the Slovak Reconstruction Party ("Ľud"), while the Freedom Party has a weekly, "Sloboda".

Dailies of the Regional Committees of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia are published in all regions. Other important newspapers include the trade union dailies "Práce" (Czech) and "Práca" (Slovak), and the dailies "Mladá fronta" (Czech) and "Smena" (Slovak), published by the Socialist Union of Youth.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia publishes an ideological and political weekly, "Tribuna", a political, scientific and cultural weekly, "Tvorba", an economic weekly, "Hospodářské noviny", a fortnightly, "Život strany", and a theoretical and political monthly, "Nová mysl". The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Slovakia publishes a political, cultural and economic weekly, "Nové slovo".

The most popular periodicals include the pictorial weeklies "Květy" and "Svět v obrazech", the weekly "Svět práce" (a trade-union paper) and the fortnightly "100 + 1 zahraniční zajímavost" (articles of interest from abroad).

Czech versions of the foreign political weekly "New Times" and the monthly theoretical and informative periodical of the Communist and workers' parties, "World Marxist Review", are also published. The Soviet news agency Novosti publishes a news weekly in the Czech language.

Members of national minorities in Czechoslovakia can learn about the political and economic life of the country through the newspapers "Új Szó" (Hungarian), "Glos ludu" (Polish), "Prager Volkszeitung" (German) and others.

The Czechoslovak News Agency

The State news agency ČTK came into existence at the same time as the proclamation of the independence of the Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918. It provides universal verbal and pictoral information on events at home and abroad. It supplies news copy to the press, radio and television and to the news agencies of other countries.

ČTK publishes and distributes news and informative material in several languages. ČTK is also the centre of the telephoto network Photo-International, founded in 1965 by the socialist news agencies.

Czechoslovak Radio

inaugurated regular daily broadcasts on May 18, 1923. Now it has five programmes, one state-wide and two Czech and two Slovak national programmes. The central programmes are supplemented by regional broadcasting (ten regional and two municipal broadcasts) and broadcasts for national minorities (in Hungarian, Polish and German). Roughly 150 broadcasting hours are transmitted daily. Czechoslovak Radio transmits a total of 33,5 broadcasting hours a week to all continents of the world in nine languages. On January 1, 1954, wire radio was introduced and on May 7, 1959, broadcasting on ultra-short waves.

Czechoslovak Television

has been broadcasting regular transmissions from Prague since May 1, 1953, and from Bratislava since 1955. Gradually, more broadcasting studios were added to the network, namely in Brno, Ostrava and Košice. TV broadcasts are sent out on two channels. In May 1973, regular colour transmissions were started, with the transmitter radius gradually being extended. Czechoslovak Television broadcasting time on both channels is 100—110 hours a week, including 15—20 per cent colour programmes.

PHYSICAL TRAINING AND SPORT

Physical training and sport in Czechoslovakia has a long and rich history, closely linked with the political, economic, social and cultural development of the country's two nations, and above all with the struggle of the democratic and progressive forces for national liberation. The present system of physical training in Czechoslovakia is based on the progressive traditions of the Sokol organization, dating back to the second half of the 19th century, and on the revolutionary traditions of the working-class physical training movement in the pre-war bourgeois Republic.

Changes in the social system laid the foundations for a system of socialist physical training. Its characteristic feature is its mass-membership base. Various forms of everyday physical training, sports and hiking are accessible to everyone, and popular with all age-groups, particularly the young.

Physical training in Czechoslovakia is an organic part of the all-round socialist upbringing of young people; it helps shape their personality, keeps them fit for work and for the defence of the country, raises the health standard, and is an excellent form of leisure-time activity.

At the end of 1974, the Czechoslovak Union of Physical Culture the nationwide, voluntary physical training and sports organization, had more than 1.5 million members. In addition, physical training and sports activities are organized for children and youth by schools at all levels, by the Young Pioneer Organization, the Socialist Union of Youth and by the Union for Cooperation with the Army (Svazarm), while the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement provides recreational facilities for tens of thousands of working people. About 2,5 million people take an active part in physical training in its various forms — gymnastic exercises, mass based and recreational sports competitions, hiking, cycling, canoeing and aquatic sports.

An important role in the Czechoslovak system of physical training and sports is played by thousands of voluntary officials, organizers, instructors, trainers and referees who devote almost all of their free time to the development of physical training, sports and hiking.

In the socialist concept of physical training, the State also plays an important role: in contrast to capitalism, the State finances the training of leading specialized cadres — there are Faculties of Physical Training at the universities in Prague and Bratislava — and the construction of sports facilities. In this way, conditions are being systematically created for the further broad-based development of physical training in the country. Almost 1,000 athletic tracks, 1,000 outdoor swimming pools, 58 indoor ice-rinks, 200 multi-purpose indoor arenas, almost 7,000 gymnasiums and thousands of football grounds and handball, volleyball, tennis and basketball courts are evidence that the interests and requirements of the people are being fully met.

Despite the long history of organized physical training in Czechoslovakia, which goes back more than a century, it has only been in the past thirty years of socialist physical training that the greatest successes of Czechoslovak sportsmen on the international forum have been achieved. The first post-war world champions were the Czechoslovak table tennis players who won the title in 1946; in May of the same year, the Czechoslovak national men's basketball team won the European Championship in Geneva.

Since then, Czechoslovakia has won more than 150 team and individual titles on European and world championships, and many Czechoslovak sportsmen have figured on the list of Olympic winners. Czechoslovakia's most successful sports disciplines in international competitions have been gymnastics, athletics, canoeing, rowing, figure skating, tennis and table-tennis, cycling and skiing.

In the team sports, Czechoslovak ice-hockey, volleyball, basketball and handball teams rank with the best in the world.

In the past thirty years, Czechoslovak sportsmen have won 33 gold, 27 silver and 23 bronze medals at the Olympic Games — more than twice as many as during bourgeois pre-war Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovak competitors have also won many medals in such sports as aviation, parachute jumping, shooting and motoring, testifying not only to the talent, skill and effort of the sportsmen but also to the high quality of Czechoslovak products.

The Spartakiads, the most spectacular evidence of the success of Czechoslovak physical training, demonstrate the deep interest of the people in all aspects of physical culture. The 4th National Spartakiad, held as part of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's liberation by the Soviet Army, was a convincing display of the mass-based character of physical training, sport and hiking, a festival of the revolutionary youth and joyful life of people in a socialist society.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Czechoslovakia is sometimes aptly described as a country with 128,000 square kilometres of tourist attractions. Numerous fine old towns, some three thousand castles and chateaux, 40,000 historical buildings and monuments, more than 50 spas, mountain ranges with well-equipped tourist centres and sports resorts, countless lakes and ponds, dozens of man-made lakes, art galleries and famous cultural events — these are Czechoslovakia's main tourist trade assets. In fact, from the list of 39 internationally recognized tourist attractions, Czechoslovakia can offer foreign visitors all but one — the sea.

Tourism in Czechoslovakia has become an integral part of the life of socialist society, and one of the indicators of the high standard of living. The steady expansion of domestic tourism proves that great efforts are being made by the State to ensure the regeneration of the working people's energy, both physical and intellectual, through this form of leisure-time activity and to widen familiarity with the nation's cultural heritage.

The main factor in the tourist trade from abroad are the systematically promoted relations with the socialist countries; this is also another way of fulfilling the political line and of strengthening the political and economic integration of the socialist system. In the tourist trade with the capitalist countries, a differentiated approach is taken in promotion and publicity with regard to the various areas, and regulatory measures are in effect for trips of Czechoslovak citizens to the capitalist States.

Tourism has shown a very rapid expansion in Czechoslovakia, a country situated at the crossroads of the main European tourist routes: in 1973, Czechoslovakia was visited by more than 9.5 million foreign tourists, and 2.8 million Czechoslovak citizens travelled abroad.

An important role in domestic tourism is played by trade union and works recreation schemes, which also reflect the State's concern for the working people. Czechoslovakia has the longest tradition, except for the Soviet Union, in this form of holiday-making, which has undergone a great development in the past thirty years. In 1945, a little more than 4,400 members benefited from the recreation scheme of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement (ROH). In 1975 the expected number of trade unionists enjoying this type of recreation is expected to be nearly 430,000. About 57,000 trade unionists will spend their holidays abroad.

The number of recreation centres, recreation homes and chalets run by the trade unions exceeds one hundred. These facilities have a capacity of 13,000 beds. In 1974, a total of 3,300,000 people took turns vacationing in enterprise and factory recreational facilities, in addition to more than 70,000 members of cooperative farms, who were also there on holiday thanks to the cooperative farmers' recreation scheme.

INDIVIDUAL REGIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Capital City of Prague

Prague covers an area of 491 sq. km and has a population of 1,158,665 (as of July 1974, when the city was enlarged by 200 sq. km through the incorporation of 30 localities); it is divided into 10 districts. It is the seat of the President, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Czech Socialist Republic, and the Parliament, the highest authorities and other official bodies; there are many diplomatic missions, universities, colleges and research institutes, and a number of international organizations; it is the centre of the country's cultural life and also the westernmost socialist metropolis in Europe.

Prague is also Czechoslovakia's largest industrial centre. Its most important industries are engineering (mainly heavy engineering), the chemical, food, clothing, printing and film industries and, in the newly annexed localities, the building industry. The largest enterprises, all of them engineering works making a wide range of products, include ČKD Praha, Tesla, the Klement Gottwald Automobile Works, the Jan Šverma Aircraft Factory, the Bohemian Shipyards and the Aritma Works.

Prague's geographical position at the heart of Europe makes the city an important crossroads of international land and air transport. Czechoslovak Airlines has regular routes to 41 countries. Local transport carries 130,000 passengers per hour, or 540 million persons per year. In 1974, the first line (6.7 km) of the new underground system was opened.

Prague has a long history and boasts a great many architectural monuments in a wide variety of styles. Perhaps the most outstanding cultural monument, associated with the history of the Czech nation for more than 1,000 years, is Prague Castle (Pražský hrad). In the 9th century, it became the residence of the Czech princes and kings; for a time the Holy Roman Emperors resided there, and since 1918 it has been the seat of Czechoslovakia's Presidents. It arose towards the end of the 9th century as a wooden Slavonic fortress and palace, the seat of the Přemyslid dynasty. In the 11th century, it was replaced by a fortified Romanesque stone castle, which in turn was rebuilt in the 14th century under Charles IV in the Gothic style. Further important architectural reconstruction was carried out in the 15th century under Vladislav Jagellon. In the 16th century and at the beginning of the 17th century, Prague Castle was rebuilt once more, this time in the Renaissance style, and new buildings — the Belvedere summer palace and the Ball House (Míčovna) — arose beyond its inner core. Further adaptations in the Classicist style gave Prague Castle its present appearance. St. Vitus Cathedral, created by many generations of builders, houses the Coronation Jewels and includes the burial crypt of the Czech kings. The Cathedral was built on the foundations of a pre-Romanesque rotunda from the days of Prince Wenceslas which, in the 11th century, was replaced by a Romanesque basilica. The Gothic cathedral was begun in the 14th century under Charles IV by Matthias of Arras and his successor Petr Parléř, and was completed only in the 20th century. Other important buildings in the Castle area (Hradčany) include St. George's Basilica, originally built in pre-Romanesque style, the Church of the Loretto and the former Strahov Monastery, now the Museum of National Literature.

The most ancient part of Prague is the Old Town (Staré Město) with many Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings. The most outstanding are the Powder Tower (Prašná brána), the Old Town Hall (Staroměstská radnice), the Týn Church, the Carolinum, the Clementinum, etc. The Josefov quarter forms an integral part of the Town; the Old-New Synagogue (Staronová synagoga) situated here is the oldest in Europe. The Lesser Town (Malá Strana) contains a great many opulent Renaissance and Baroque palaces. Its outstanding architectural monuments built in the various styles spanning Prague's thousand-year-old history and highly diversified terrain make Prague one of the most fascinating and beautiful cities in the world.

The Central Bohemian Region

This vast hinterland of Prague has close historical, cultural and economic ties with the capital city. It provides Prague with manpower and supplies the city with foodstuffs, especially sugar and, to a lesser extent, milk, meat, vegetables and grain. It offers the population of the capital many fine recreational opportunities. It has an area of 11,008 sq. km and a population of 1,129,887 (1974).

The Central Bohemian region is gently undulating or flat. Its northern and eastern part is taken up by the lower, rather flattish formations of the Bohemian Plateau (Česká tabule), the soil here is very fertile and the climate relatively warm. The southern and western parts of the region are mostly hilly, with soils of a poorer quality. Most of the southern part of this region is taken up by the extensive Central Bohemian Heights (Středočeská pahorkatina), an area with many river valleys. Velký Blaník (651 m) near Vlašim is a mountain that figures in many folktales. In the eastern part of the region there is the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands (Českomoravská vysočina). The western area is the most elevated part of the region — the Brdy group (highest points, Tok and Praha, both 862 m) and the slightly lower Hřebeny range. An interesting karst area extends from Prague to Beroun; tourists can visit the Koněprusy Caves, with their rich stalactite decoration, in Golden Horse Hill (Zlatý kůň). Another attraction in this area is the workshops dating from the 15th century in which the production of counterfeit coins was carried out.

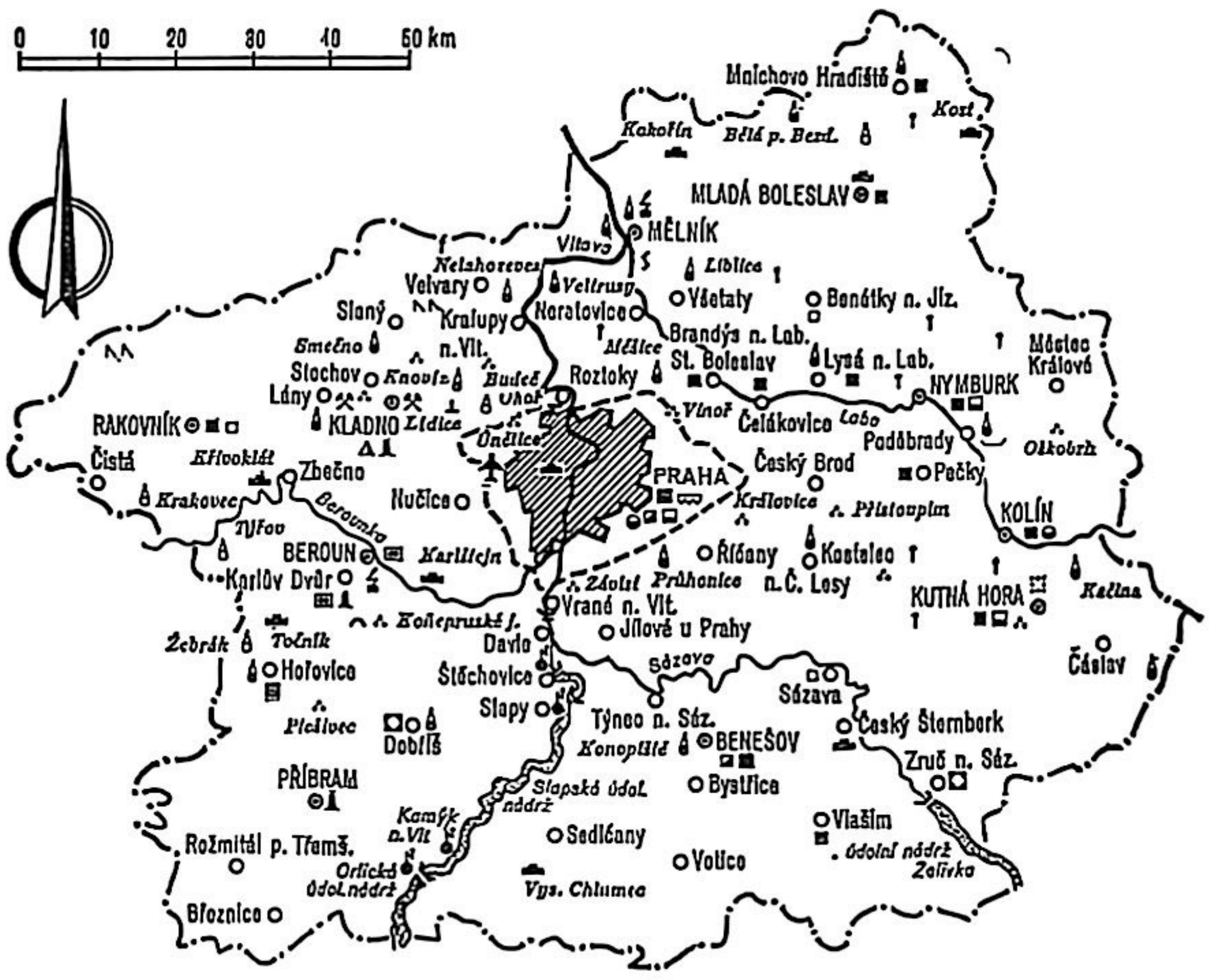
More than a quarter of this region is wooded, though extensive stretches of forest are found only in the Brdy group and around Křivoklát and Kokořín. The region is drained by the central and lower course of the Vltava and the lower Labe (Elbe). The many dams with artifical lakes situated along the Vltava in this region — Vrané, Štěchovice, Slapy, Kamýk and the largest of them, Orlík (2,637 hectares) — are used for water conservancy, electrical power generation and recreation. Another reservoir built in 1971 on the Želivka River supplies drinking water for Prague.

Central Bohemia's power resources are situated in the Kladno-Rakovník hard-coal basin, which supplies nearly 9 per cent of Czechoslovakia's total hard-coal output. Other raw materials in this region include polymetallic ores near Kutná Hora and Příbram and, at many places, various kinds of building material. Ferrous metallurgy and steel production is centred at Kladno and Králův Dvůr, non-ferrous metallurgy at Příbram. Important engineering plants are concentrated around Prague, at Mladá Boleslav (cars), Mnichovo Hradiště, Kolín, Rakovník (bicycles) and around Kladno. The chemical industry is based at Kralupy nad Vltavou, where Czechoslovakia's largest oil-refinery is starting production, and at Neratovice. There are large cement works at Králův Dvůr and a factory for prefabricated building parts at Hýskov. The belt along the Labe is a traditional centre of the food industry; it contains many sugar refineries and flour mills. There is a brewery at Velké Popovice.

Agricultural production concentrates on sugar-beet, wheat and barley in the north, and on potatoes in the south. Vegetables are grown along the Labe and hops around Rakovník while the Mělník district has been famous for centuries for its vineyards.

LEGEND

≋	Dam-lake
⌒	Cave
⌣	Abyss
━●━	State border
— — · — —	Boundary between the two republics
—— · ——	Regional boundary
▨	Regional capital
⊙	District town
○	Other localities
✈	Air-port
▬	Castle
♜	Chateau
♖	Castle ruins
⌣	Spa
⚲	Mineral well
⁙	Historic city reserve
∴	Archaeological site
⊥	Memorial, monument,
★	Site of recent important event
⚒	Lignite
⚒	Hard coal
ϟ	Thermal power-plant
ϟ	Hydroelectrical power-plant
◘	Nuclear power-plant
▲	Metallurgical industry
■	Engineering industry
△	Fuel industry
◒	Chemical industry
▤	Building materials industry
▭	Woodworking and paper industry
□	Glass and ceramics industry
▣	Textile and clothing industry
⧈	Leatherworking industry
◪	Food industry
↑	Sugar-beet
$	Vineyard
ʌʌ	Hops
⌘	Tobacco
♀	Flax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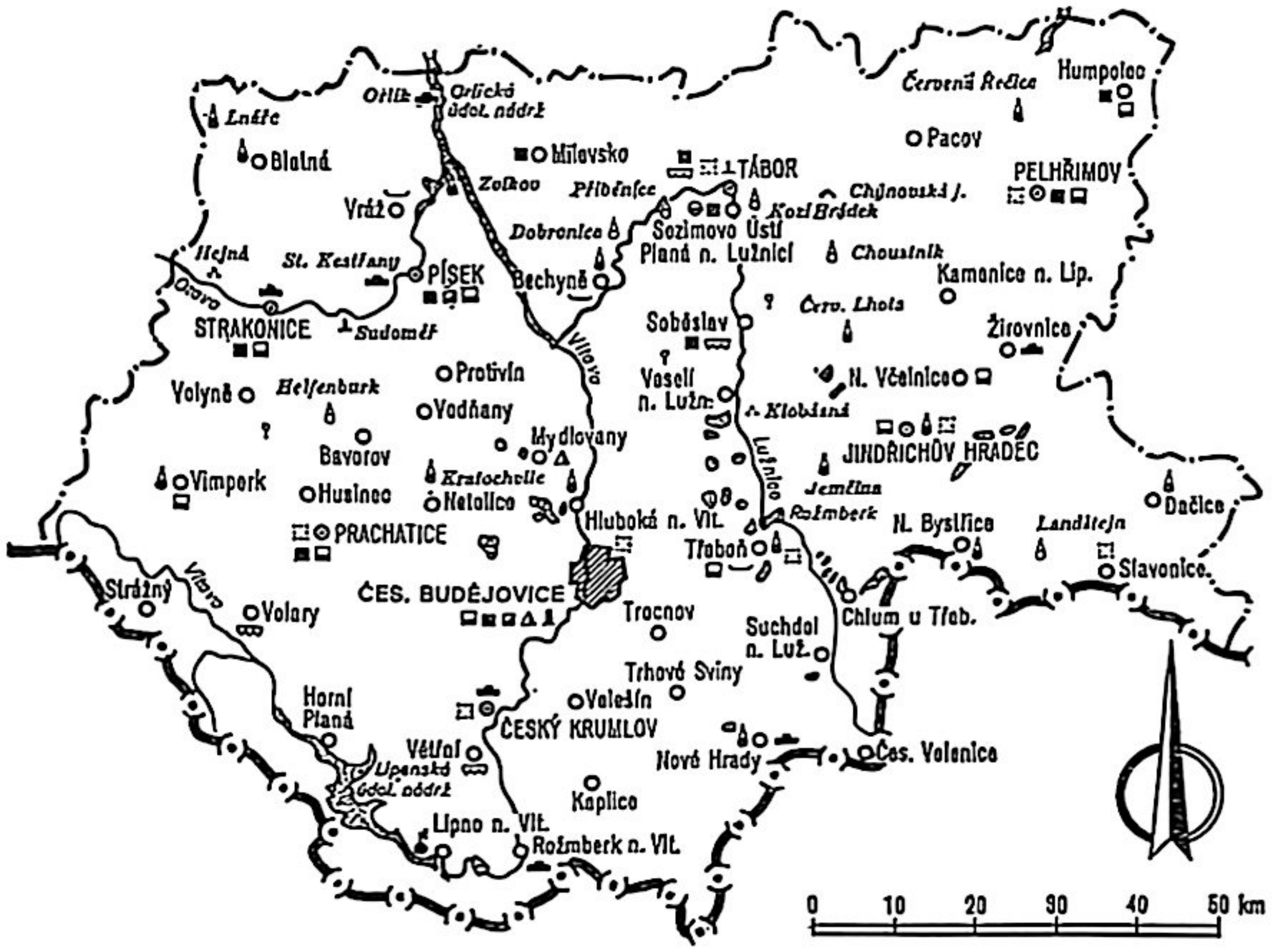
50 km
Malchovo Hradiště
Kokořín
Bělá p. Bezd.
Kost
MLADÁ BOLESLAV
MĚLNÍK
Vltava
Nelahozeves
Veltrusy
Liblice
Velvary
Slaný
Kralupy n. Vlt.
Neratovice
Všetaty
Benátky n. Jiz.
Mšeno
Smečno
Stochov
Knovíz
Budeč
Mělice
Brandýs n. Lab.
St. Boleslav
Lysá n. Lab.
Městec Králové
Lány
Roztoky
Úhoř
NYMBURK
RAKOVNÍK
KLADNO
Lidice
Vinoř
Čelákovice
Labe
Poděbrady
Okobrh
Čistá
Křivoklát
Zbečno
Únětice
PRAHA
Český Brod
Pečky
Krakovec
Nučice
Královice
Přistoupim
Týřov
Berounka
BEROUN
Karlštejn
KOLÍN
Karlův Dvůr
Zdolst
Průhonice
Říčany
Kostelec n. Č. Lesy
KUTNÁ HORA
Kačina
Vrané n. Vlt.
Jílové u Prahy
Koněpruské j.
Žebrák
Točník
Davle
Čáslav
Hořovice
Štěchovice
Sázava
Slapy
Sázava
Pičilovec
Dobříš
Týnec n. Sáz.
Český Šternberk
Konopiště
BENEŠOV
Zruč n. Sáz.
PŘÍBRAM
Slapská údol. nádrž
Bystřice
Kamýk n. Vlt.
Sedlčany
Vlašim
Rožmitál p. Třemš.
Orlická údol. nádrž
Votice
údolní nádrž Želivka
Vys. Chlumec
Březnice

The administrative bodies of this region are centred in Prague, its largest city is Kladno (population 60,646), well-known for its progressive working-class traditions. It is an important centre for hard-coal mining and high-quality steel production. The nearby village of Lidice, with its memorial to the victims of Nazism in 1942, has been designated a national cultural monument. Příbram (pop. 31,178) is an old silver-mining centre, known today for its production of uranium-rich and polymetallic ores. The local mining shafts go down more than 1,500 m, and are the deepest in Europe. Mladá Boleslav (pop. 36,303), continuing in its local tradition (the first automobile produced here was made in 1905), is now the centre of Czechoslovakia's automobile production (Škoda cars). Kolín (pop. 28,835), which lies on the Labe, has engineering, chemical, food and printing industries. The town, founded in the 13th century, has well-preserved medieval and Baroque buildings. Kutná Hora (pop. 18,905) was Bohemia's second largest city (after Prague) in the Middle Ages, its wealth based on deposits of silver and other polymetallic ores. The many fine buildings that still remind us of its ancient glory include the Italian Court (Vlašský dvůr), St. Barbara's Cathedral and the former Jesuit College. There are food, textile and engineering plants in the city and new metallurgical engineering works. The nearby Empire [style château of Kačina has been converted into an Agricultural Museum. Mělník (pop . 17,560), at the confluence of the Vltava and Labe, has engineering and food industries and an imposing Renaissance château, that was originally a Gothic castle.

Human settlements have existed in this region since time immemorial, and the region is rich in important historical sites and monuments. Archaeological sites include a Celtic oppidum from the 1st century B. C. at Závist, and a fortified Slavonic settlement from the 9th century at Levý Hradec. Among the later buildings of historical importance are Karlštejn, a Gothic castle founded by Charles IV, Křivoklát, a 13th century hunting residence of the Bohemian kings, Konopiště, an originally Gothic castle which was repeatedly reconstructed and which is known for its valuable furnishings and collections, and Český Šternberk, dating from the 13th century. Sázava Monastery, a centre of Slavonic liturgy and literature in the 11th century, is now a national cultural monument. The château in Průhonice near Prague is situated in an extensive park with rare trees and one of the richest botanical collections in the world.

The South Bohemian Region

With its 11,347 sq. km and 662,000 inhabitants, this region has the lowest population density in Czechoslovakia. The many years of continual migration of the population from southern Bohemia came to an end only recently, as the result of changed economic conditions. Today, in addition


Lnáře
Blatná
Orlík
Orlická údol. nádrž
Milevsko
Vráž
Zvíkov
Příběnice
TÁBOR
Dobronice
Sezimovo Ústí
Planá n. Lužnicí
Kozí Hrádek
Chýnovská j.
Chousník
Hejná
St. Kestřany
PÍSEK
Bechyně
Otava
STRAKONICE
Sudoměř
Soběslav
Červ. Lhota
Červená Řečice
Humpolec
Pacov
PELHŘIMOV
Kamenice n. Lip.
Žirovnice
Volyně
Helfenburk
Protivín
Vodňany
Veselí n. Lužn.
Klokotná
N. Včelnice
Bavorov
Mydlovany
Vimperk
Kratochvíle
Husinec
Netolice
Hluboká n. Vlt.
Lužnice
JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC
Jemčina
Rožmberk
PRACHATICE
Třeboň
N. Bystřice
Landštejn
Dačice
Slavonice
Vltava
Strážný
Volary
ČES. BUDĚJOVICE
Trocnov
Suchdol n. Luž.
Chlum u Třeb.
Trhové Sviny
Horní Planá
Valešín
ČESKÝ KRUMLOV
Větřní
Lipenská údol. nádrž
Nové Hrady
Čes. Velenice
Kaplice
Lipno n. Vlt.
Rožmberk n. Vlt.
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50 km

to the natural population increase, this region also has a net inflow.

From the point of view of natural beauty, the South Bohemian region is one of the most lovely areas of the country, offering fine opportunities for hiking and for aquatic sports. Nearly 10 per cent of the territory lies more than 800 m above sea-level, mostly in the area of the Šumava Mountains, an extensive and heavily forested range of rounded hills with ocassional steep rock-faces, the result of earlier glaciation. The highest peak is Plechý (1,378m), situated near the border. The virgin forest reserve in the Boubín range was established in the middle of the last century, while the Žofín virgin forest reserve in the Novohradské mountain group is even older: it dates from 1838. In the east, the extensive Bohemian-Moravian Highlands project into the South Bohemian region at an average altitude of some 500 m above sea-level; in the north, the gently undulating Central Bohemian Heights rise to a maximum of over 700 m. The central part of the region is taken up by the Třeboň and the

Budějovice basins, which are dotted with many fish-ponds, most of them dating from the 16th century. The most important river in this region is the Vltava, which is used for water conservancy, power generation and recreational purposes. The dam near Lipno, situated 726 m above sea-level, forms the largest artificial lake in Czechoslovakia. The Lužnice River is a popular centre for aquatic sports and recreation.

The region is poor in mineral resources. Power resources are represented by a small quantity of lignite in the Budějovice basin. Peat obtained from the Třeboň basin is mainly used for agricultural purposes. The supplies of top-quality graphite are declining. There is a good supply of raw materials for the building industry.

The most important industrial branch in this region is engineering production; others include the clothing, woodworking, paper and food industries. Strakonice has Czechoslovakia's largest motorcycle plant; its products are exported to some 120 countries throughout the world. Pelhřimov and Humpolec have plants making agricultural machinery; machine tools are produced at Sezimovo Ústí and Strakonice; the electrical engineering industry is represented at Písek and Tábor; engineering works producing consumer goods are situated at České Budějovice (needles) and Soběslav (sewing and knitting machines). Strakonice, České Budějovice and Humpolec are traditional textile industry centres, while new textile mills have been built at Písek, Jindřichův Hradec, Třeboň, Prachatice and Vimperk. The chemical industry is represented by an artificial fibre plant at Planá nad Lužnicí. There is a large pulp and paper mill at Větřní near Český Krumlov, with a branch factory at Loučovice; České Budějovice has plants making furniture and pencils. Woodworking plants are also found in many other places in this region. One traditional industry in southern Bohemia is the food industry, which continues to expand on the basis of local resources. Milk is processed at České Budějovice,

Tábor and Strakonice, and there is a large meat factory at Písek.

This region is well suited for agricultural production, and especially for cattle-breeding. Crop production concentrates on wheat, potatoes, rye and flax. Half of Czechoslovakia's total fishing grounds (in surface area) are found in the South Bohemian region and its fishing industry has a long tradition. Timber and game production is also important.

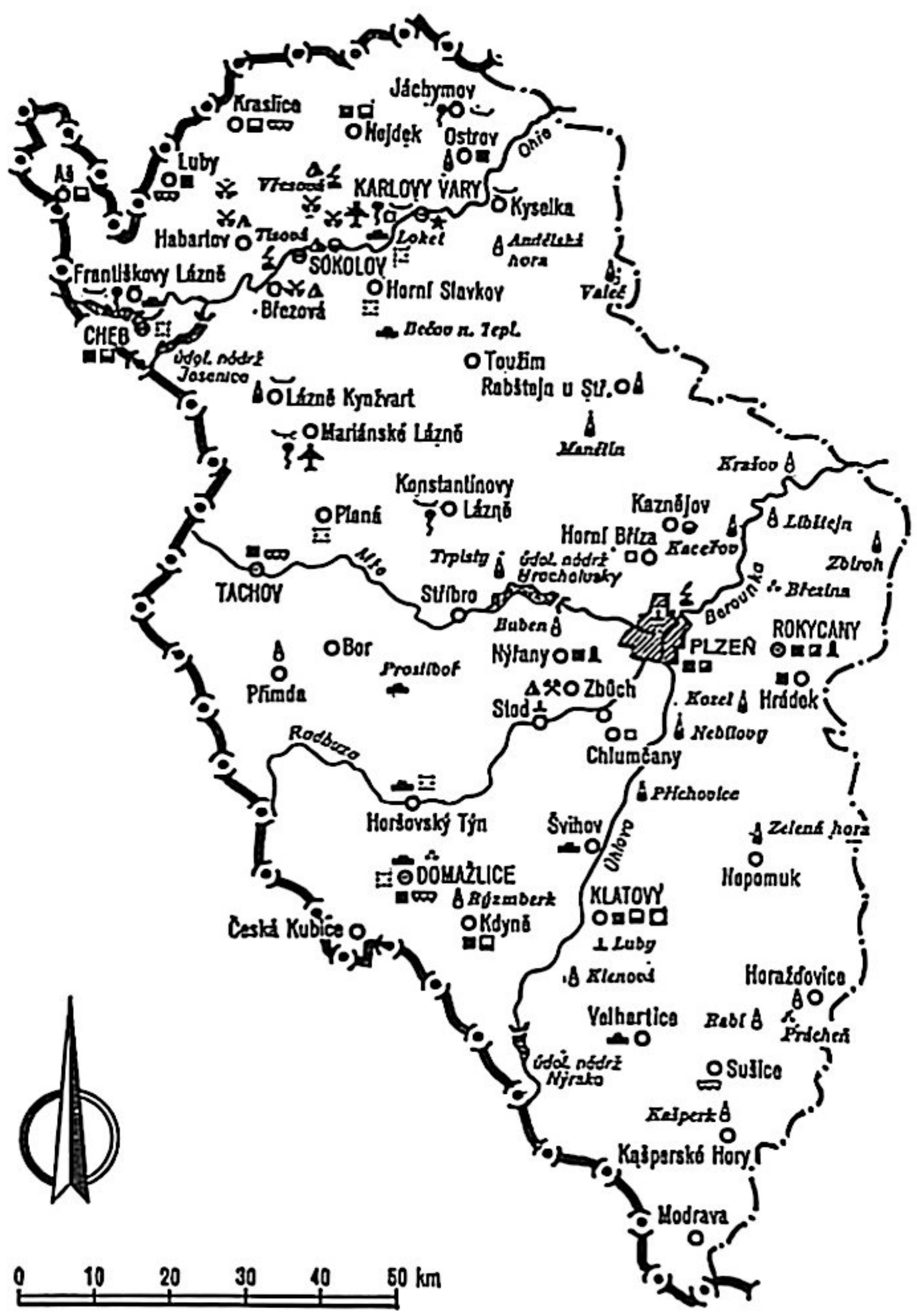
The largest city as well as the administrative centre of the South Bohemian region is České Budějovice (pop. 80,536). It has engineering works producing motors and small engineering articles, new metal works, a food industry with a large brewery (exporting Budvar beer), a pencil factory and a paper mill. The city of Tábor (pop. 27,779) was founded by the Hussites in 1420. Its historical centre, which includes many Gothic and Renaissance buildings, has been declared a national cultural monument in commemoration of the fact that this was where the people first attempted to create a classless society by revolutionary means. The main industry is engineering, especially electrical engineering. Písek (pop. 25,075) with well-preserved Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings, has modern textile, engineering, woodworking and food industries. Strakonice (pop. 18,579) is an industrial centre with a large motorcycle plant, textile works (fezzes, berets, covers, woollen fabrics) and a modern plant producing powdered milk. Jindřichův Hradec (pop. 15,579), a town of lesser economic importance with minor textile, woodworking and food industries, has a large Renaissance château, originally a 13th century Gothic castle, and many other architectural monuments (partly preserved city walls, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings).

The rich history of this region is documented by the great number of architectural monuments, castles, châteaux, religious buildings, etc. Český Krumlov is an historical town reservation with a castle founded in the middle of the 13th century, formerly the seat of the richest aristocratic families (the Rožmberks and Schwarzenbergs). Rare Renaissance houses and older examples of Gothic architecture are found at Strakonice. The most outstanding of the castles and châteaux of the South Bohemian region are Orlík Castle (Gothic) with valuable collections, Zvíkov, a Gothic castle partly rebuilt in the Renaissance style, the château of Hluboká, adapted in the neo-Gothic style and housing the Mikoláš Aleš South Bohemian Picture Gallery, Rožmberk nad Vltavou and Blatná. Another outstanding work of architecture is the former monastery at Zlatá Koruna.

The West Bohemian Region

This is one of the smaller regions, both in size (10,872 sq. km) and population (865,100). The population density is 79.6 persons per sq. km, but there are great differences between the individual districts.

The heart of the region is the Plzeň basin. To the north-east, it is overlooked by Slavkov Forest and the Doupov Mountains, which do not rise above 1,000 metres. The northern border is formed by the Ore Mountains (Krušné hory), their highest peak is Klínovec (1,244 m). The western part of the region is rimmed by the Smrčiny Mountains and the Bohemian Forest (Český les), the south by the Šumava range. The rare species of flora found here, and the many lakes, including Black Lake (Černé jezero — 18.4 hectares), the largest in Czechoslovakia, trace their origin to the glacial era. The watercourses of the region do not form a uniform system. The largest rivers are the Berounka, which originates at Plzeň, from the confluence of several smaller rivers, and the Ohře, which flows through the industrial area at the foot of the Ore Mountains. The fluctuating water-level of these rivers has necessitated the construction of several water reservoirs (Hracholusky near Plzeň, Skalka near Cheb and the largest of them, the Jesenice water reservoir on the Odrava, a tributary of the Ohře).


Kraslice
Jáchymov
Nejdek
Ostrov
Ohře
Luby
Aš
Vřesová
KARLOVY VARY
Kyselka
Habartov
Tisová
Loket
Andělská hora
SOKOLOV
Františkovy Lázně
Březová
Horní Slavkov
Valeč
CHEB
Bečov n. Tepl.
údol. nádrž Jesenice
Toužim
Lázně Kynžvart
Rabštejn u Stř.
Mariánské Lázně
Manětín
Krašov
Konstantinovy Lázně
Planá
Kaznějov
Horní Bříza
Libštejn
Kaceřov
Zbiroh
Mže
Trpísty
údol. nádrž Hracholusky
TACHOV
Stříbro
Berounka
Březina
Buben
ROKYCANY
Bor
Nýřany
PLZEŇ
Přimda
Prostiboř
Zbůch
Hrádek
Stod
Kozel
Radbuza
Nebílovy
Chlumčany
Příchovice
Horšovský Týn
Švihov
Zelená hora
Úhlava
DOMAŽLICE
Nepomuk
Rýzmberk
KLATOVY
Česká Kubice
Kdyně
Luby
Klenová
Horažďovice
Velhartice
Rabí
Prácheň
údol. nádrž Nýrsko
Sušice
Kašperk
Kašperské Hory
Modrava
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The climate of this region is under strong maritime influence. In the greater part of the territory, annual precipitation averages 550—750 mm; on the highest peaks of the Šumava Mountains it reaches about 1,500 mm. Temperature differences vary largely in accordance with altitude.

The West Bohemian region has considerable supplies of mineral resources. The brown-coal deposits in the Sokolov area (the second largest brown-coal district in Czechoslovakia) are very important, and there are smaller hard-coal deposits near Plzeň. Top-quality kaolin is obtained in the neighbourhood of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) and there are large resources of other ceramic raw materials near Plzeň (at Horní Bříza). Uranium ore is mined in the Tachov district.

Czechoslovakia's largest engineering complex with its own metallurgical production is the Škoda Works in Plzeň, with branch factories at many places in the region. Modern textile machines are made at Kdyně, and building machines at Luby near Cheb and at Nýřany, equipment for the rubber industry is produced at Chodov (Sokolov district) and the chemical industry is located at Sokolov and Kaznějov. Large textile mills are found at Aš, Nejdek, Kraslice, Kdyně and Klatovy. There are glass works making flat glass at Oloví and Sokolov, and glass tiles for export are produced at Chodov. The glass works at Karlovy Vary (Moser glass) do a thriving export business. World-famous porcelain is produced at Karlovy Vary and in its environs (Stará Role, Nová Role). The wood, working industry is centred at Sušice (matches) Kraslice and Luby (musical instruments). The food industry has a world-famous brewery at Plzeň, a tinned-food plant at Rokycany, liquor production at Karlovy Vary and a large meat plant nearby.

An important role in the economic life of this region is played by its spas. They include the world-famous thermal spa at Karlovy Vary as well as other important spas at Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad), Františkovy Lázně and Jáchymov.

Agricultural production in the West Bohemian region concentrates mainly on wheat, barley, rye and potatoes; there is extensive production of forage crops. Livestock production has still untapped reserves: this region is very favourable for cattle-breeding in particular.

The largest city and industrial centre in the region is Plzeň (pop. 154,126). The huge Škoda Works, with its specialized production of complete plant equipment, large turbines, locomotives and heavy machine tools, exports more than one quarter of its products. The food industry is represented in this city by the Plzeň breweries, especially the Burghers' Brewery (Měšťanský pivovar) making the world-famous Pilsner Urquell beer. The historical part of the city, which was founded at the close of the 13th century, includes well-preserved Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance buildings. There are archaeological sites in the environs. The second largest centre in the region is Karlovy Vary (pop. 42,847). Its 12 thermal springs, the largest of which, the Vřídlo, supplies some 2,000 litres of mineral water at a constant temperature of 72°C per minute, are used for treating diseases of the alimentary tract. Cheb (pop. 27,941) is an industrial centre with a renovated historical core and a Romanesque imperial palace. Its industries include bicycle production and textile mills. The industrial town of Sokolov (pop. 23,803) is a centre of brown-coal production and has a chemical industry. Klatovy (pop. 18,310) is an important town both historically and economically, with partly preserved fortifications and a number of medieval and Baroque buildings. Its most important industrial branches are engineering, underwear production, leather fancy goods and food production. Ostrov (pop. 18,216) grew up after World War II in connection with ore mining in the Jáchymov district. It now has a branch factory of the engineering works of Plzeň. Mariánské Lázně, surrounded by forests, is a renowned spa specializing in the treatment of nervous and cardiac diseases. A smaller radioactive spa is Jáchymov, a town with an old and distinguished mining tradition. Pitchblende obtained from local waste dumps was used by Marie Curie-Skłodowska, when isolating radium for the first time.

The centre of the folklore region of Chodsko is Domažlice, with preserved fortifications and an originally Gothic castle. Loket, with a former royal castle from the 13th century, is of historical interest; Horšovský Týn has a number of medieval and Baroque buildings and an early Gothic castle. The Gothic water-castle of Švihov, dating back to the 13th century, is another well-known place in this region.

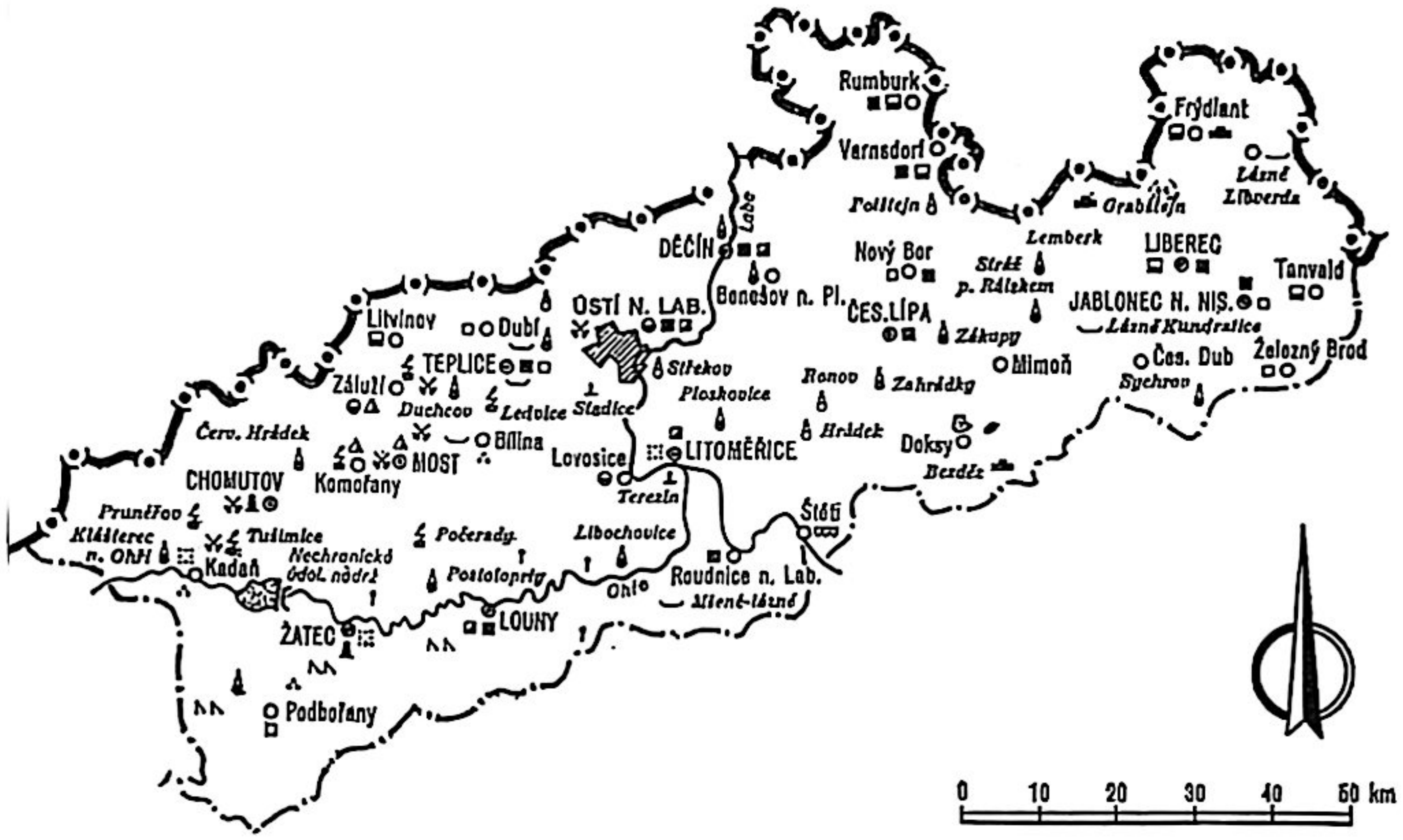
The North Bohemian Region

This region covers an area of 7,810 sq. km and has a population of 1,222,000, with a high average density of 143.7 persons per sq. km.

The topography of this region is largely formed by three mountain ranges. The Ore Mountains system, with the forested slopes of the Ore Mountains proper falling abruptly into the interior of the country, also includes the Most basin and the volcanic Bohemian Highlands (České středohoří)—highest point Milešovka, 837 m. East of the Ore Mountains are the Děčín Highlands with their steep passes, and overhanging rocks and the well-known Pravčice Gate (Pravčická brána); the second range here is represented by the Lusatian Mountains (Lužické hory) and the higher Iser Mountains (Jizerské hory), with Smrk as the highest point (1,124 m). The third system in the region is the Bohemian Plateau; its highest points are Rálsko (696 m) and Bezděz (604 m). The latter is a popular tourist attraction owing to the Gothic royal castle situated there as well as nearby Lake Mácha.

The most important river is the Labe; it links the region (as well as Prague, via the Vltava) with the North Sea and, through a system of canals, with the Baltic. Its largest tributary is the Ohře. The region includes the warmest and driest spot in Bohemia (near Žatec, average precipitation about 450 mm per year). Industry and agriculture require large quantities of water, and hence many dams have been built in this region; Nechranice, on the Ohře, forms the largest lake in the region (1,340 hectares). Forests, consisting mostly of spruce trees, cover nearly 35 per cent of this region.

The North Bohemian region is one of the most important economic areas in Czechoslovakia. Industrial centres alternate with districts of intensive agricultural production. The North Bohemian brown-coal basin is Czechoslovakia's largest brown-coal district; production is centred at Most, Litvínov, Duchcov and Bílina. The region also includes very large electrical power plants, e. g. Počerady (800 MW), Prunéřov (660 MW), Tušimice (660 MW) and Levice (640 MW).


Rumburk
Varnsdorf
Frýdlant
Lázně Libverda
Grabštejn
Lemberk
LIBEREC
Tanvald
JABLONEC N. NIS.
Lázně Kundratice
Čes. Dub
Sychrov
Železný Brod
Nový Bor
ČES.LÍPA
Stráž p. Ralskem
Zákupy
Mimoň
Ronov
Zahrádky
Hrádek
Doksy
Bezděz
DĚČÍN
Labe
Benešov n. Pl.
ÚSTÍ N. LAB.
Litvínov
Dubí
TEPLICE
Záluží
Duchcov
Ledvice
Sladice
Střekov
Ploskovice
LITOMĚŘICE
Lovosice
Terezín
Bílina
MOST
Komořany
Červ. Hrádek
CHOMUTOV
Prunéřov
Klášterec n. Ohří
Kadaň
Tušimice
Nechranická údol. nádrž
Počerady
Libochovice
Postoloprty
Ohře
Roudnice n. Lab.
Mšené-lázně
Štětí
LOUNY
ŽATEC
Podbořany
0 10 20 30 40 50 km

There is also a large engineering industry producing vehicles (Liberec, Jablonec nad Nisou) and textile machinery (Chrastava). The older engineering centres include Roudnice nad Labem and Děčín. The largest metal plant is the rolling mill and iron and steel works at Chomutov. Large centres of the chemical industry are found at Záluží near Most, Ústí nad Labem and Lovosice. The textile industry holds an important position in this region; traditionally it has been concentrated in the north-eastern area, though newer production centres are to be found at the foot of the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše). The largest centres are Liberec, Varnsdorf, Vratislavice nad Nisou, Rumburk, Šluknov, Teplice and Litvínov. The North Bohemian glass industry has a long tradition and a world-wide reputation: in the northern part of the region costume jewelry, lighting fittings and hollow glass are the main products, and in the west glass for industrial purposes. The largest centres are

Jablonec nad Nisou, Pěnčín, Nový Bor, Železný Brod, Kamenický Šenov, Teplice, Dubí and Bílina. Food industry plants are located at Ústí nad Labem, Děčín, Lovosice, Litoměřice, Louny and Teplice.

This region's share in the total national agricultural output is very small. Crops grown in the fertile areas include wheat, barley and sugar beet, and in the north-east potatoes. Hops are also grown in this region; those from the Žatec district are particularly famous, and much of the crop is exported. There is an important fruit-growing area in the Bohemian Highlands, and intensive vegetable production along the Labe.

The administrative centre of the region is Ústí nad Labem (pop. 74,623), which has large chemical, food, engineering and textile industries. The largest city in the region is the highly industrialized Liberec (pop. 75,101). It has an important textile industry as well as engineering and woodworking industries. Large coal deposits, worked both in mines and in open-cast sites, are located at Most (pop. 58,930). The old buildings in this town are gradually being demolished to permit recovery of the coal, and the population and the factories are moving to new quarters. Teplice (pop. 52,440) with its hot radioactive springs, is one of the oldest Bohemian spas, and it has now become an important industrial centre as well, with precision engineering works, a glass factory and ceramic and textile production. The important architectural monuments in this town include the remains of a Romanesque monastery, a former Renaissance château and the spa buildings in the Empire style. Děčín (pop. 46,272), a port on the Labe, is an industrial centre with important engineering, textile and food industries. Chomutov (pop. 43,952) is known for its metallurgical industries: products from its tube-rolling mill are used for the construction of Soviet oil-pipelines. Jablonec nad Nisou (pop. 36,040) is world-famous for its costume jewellery, and also has important engineering works.

Litvínov (pop. 23,304), a mining centre with a large textile factory, forms a conurbation with Záluží, where modern chemical works processing brown coal and crude oil are situated. One of the oldest Bohemian cities is Litoměřice (pop. 19,762), which boasts a great many rare Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings. There was a fortified Slavonic settlement here in the 9th century; a castle was later built in the 11th century on the site. The town has minor leatherworking, food and textile industries. Bílina (pop. 16,848) is a spa town with mining and glass industries. Žatec (pop. 17,169) is the centre of the hop-growing district. The town has well-preserved medieval fortifications and many medieval and Baroque buildings. Its most important industry is the production of screws. Terezín, a fortified town founded in the 16th century, was transformed into the largest concentration camp on Czechoslovak territory in the course of World War. II (Theresienstadt). Its Small Fortress (Malá pevnost) and the cemetery of the martyred victims form a national monument.

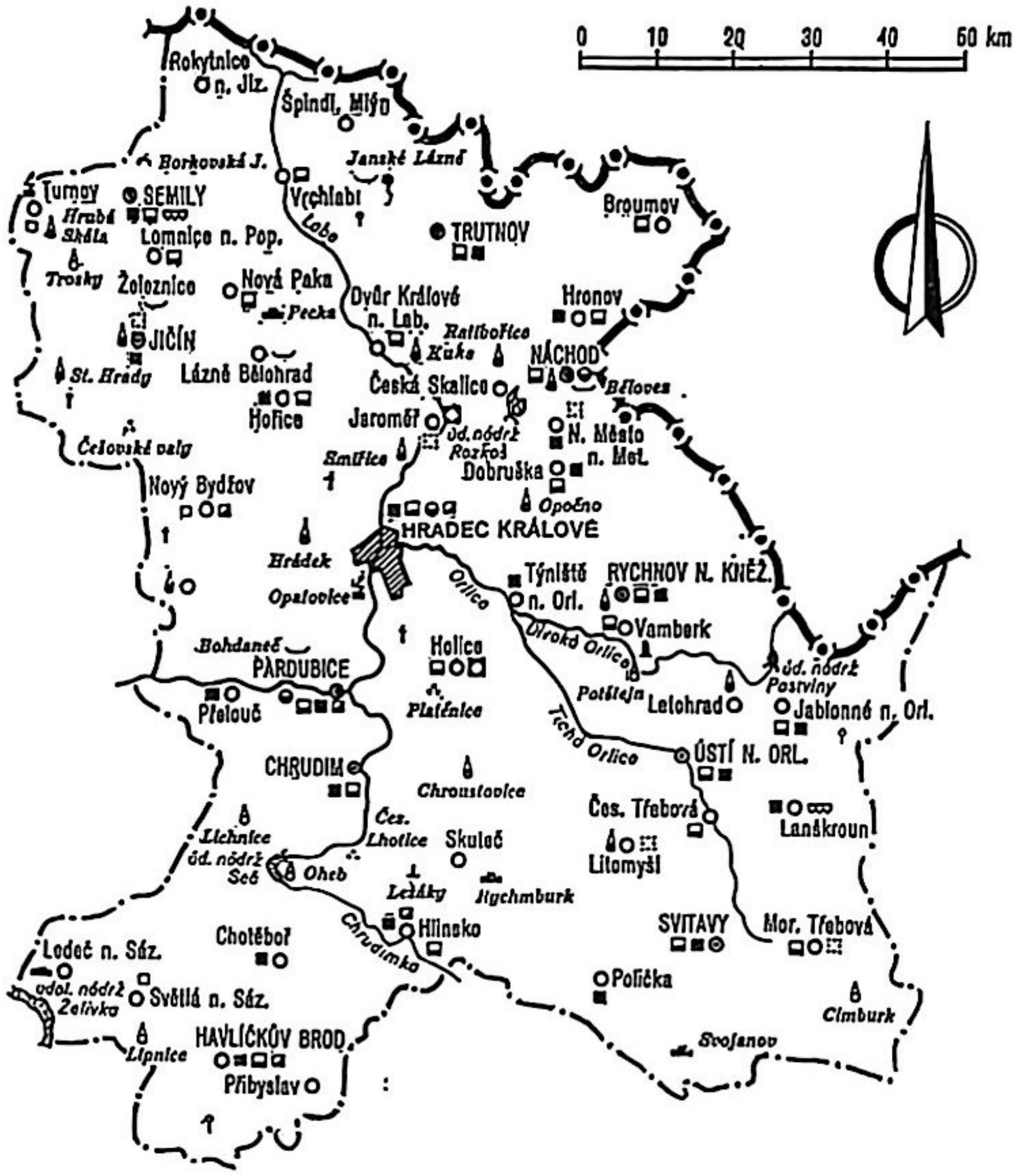
The East Bohemian Region

This region extends over an area of 11,241 sq. km and has a population of 1,214,000, i. e. an average of 108 persons per sq. km. The largest part of the region lies in the eastern area of the Bohemian Plateau. Towards the border mountains, the Jičín Heights rise above this Plateau and form the well-known "rock town" known as the Bohemian Paradise (Český ráj). The northern and eastern part of the Plateau is rimmed by the Giant Mountains, perhaps the most beautiful mountain range in Bohemia (highest point, Sněžka, 1,602 m). A total of 38,500 sq. km of this lovely mountain district with its traces of glaciation and rare flora and fauna is protected as a National Park. The Eagle (Orlické) Mountains, which lie in the eastern part of this region, are somewhat lower and more rounded (highest point, Velká Deštná, 1,115 m). The area between these two ranges is taken up by the Broumov Highlands (Broumovská vrchovina); Czechoslovakia's largest and interesting "rock town", consisting of the Adršpach and Teplice rock formations, is found here. In the south, the region includes promontories of the Iron Mountains (Železné hory) and the Žďár Hills (Žďárské vrchy).

The region has abundant sources of surface and underground water. It is drained by the upper course of Bohemia's largest river, the Labe. The local network of watercourses is only used to a small extent for hydro-electrical purposes. The largest artificial lake, formed by the Rozkoš dam (1,101 hectares), near Česká Skalice, was created on the river of the same name; it is also fed by the Úpa and Metuje Rivers. The dam at Seč on the Chrudimka is a popular recreational centre (international camps). There is a slight predominance of maritime influences in the climate of this region, and a considerable role is played by differences in altitude. Forests cover slightly more than a quarter of the total area; they consist largely of spruce trees and, in the sandstone areas, of pines.

Mineral resources include small hard-coal deposits near Trutnov and raw materials for the building industry, which are found in many places throughout the region. Top quality sand for the glass industry is obtained near Hořice. Ore mining (fluorite, baryta) is losing its former importance. The region also includes a number of sites where semi-precious stones are found.

The main industries of this region are engineering and the textile, chemical and food industries. The engineering industry tends to be concentrated in large new enterprises. Hradec Králové, Pardubice and Chotěboř are heavy industry centres producing complete plant equipment. Diesel engines are made at Plotiště nad Labem and transport equipment at Chrudim; machinery for the textile industry is produced at Týniště nad Orlicí, Ústí nad Orlicí and Červený Kostelec; machine tools are manufactured at Vrchlabí, Hronov, Svitavy and Holice, agricultural machinery at Jičín and printing machines at Dobruška. Electrical engineering equipment is supplied by factories at Pardubice and Náchod; electric appliances are made at Hlinsko, transistor radios at Přelouč and watches at Nové Město nad Metují; Vysoké Mýto, Vrchlabí and Kvasiny produce parts for the automobile industry. The chemical industry is centred at Pardubice and in its environs, and the rubber industry at Náchod and Hradec Králové. The textile industry extends throughout the region. The cotton industry is located at Náchod, Broumov, Hronov, Ústí nad Orlicí, Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Červený Kostelec and Semily. The food industry is represented in this region by several sugar refineries (Hrochův Týnec, Skřivany), flour-mills,


0 10 20 30 40 50 km
Rokytnice n. Jiz.
Špindl. Mlýn
Janské Lázně
Borkovská J.
Turnov
SEMILY
Hrubá Skála
Lomnice n. Pop.
Vrchlabí
Labe
TRUTNOV
Broumov
Trosky
Železnice
Nová Paka
Pecka
Dvůr Králové n. Lab.
Hronov
Ratibořice
JIČÍN
Kuks
NÁCHOD
St. Hrady
Lázně Bělohrad
Česká Skalice
Běloves
Hořice
Jaroměř
úd. nádrž Rozkoš
N. Město n. Met.
Čeřovské valy
Smiřice
Dobruška
Nový Bydžov
Opočno
HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ
Hrádek
Týniště n. Orl.
RYCHNOV N. KNĚŽ.
Opatovice
Orlice
Vamberk
Divoká Orlice
Bohdaneč
Holice
PARDUBICE
úd. nádrž Pastviny
Přelouč
Plačnice
Potštejn
Letohrad
Jablonné n. Orl.
Tichá Orlice
ÚSTÍ N. ORL.
CHRUDIM
Chroustovice
Čes. Třebová
Lanškroun
Lichnice
Čes. Lhotice
Skuteč
Litomyšl
úd. nádrž Seč
Oheb
Ležáky
Rychmburk
Hlinsko
Chotěboř
SVITAVY
Mor. Třebová
Ledeč n. Sáz.
Chrudimka
Polička
úd. nádrž Želivka
Světlá n. Sáz.
Cimburk
Lipnice
HAVLÍČKŮV BROD
Svojanov
Přibyslav

distilleries and milk-processing and dairy plants (Hlinsko and Nový Bydžov). The woodworking industry is centred at Hradec Králové and also includes several paper mills at the foot of the Giant Mountains. Jaroměř and Třebechovice pod Orebem have a leatherworking industry, and Trutnov and Hlinsko a fur industry. Agricultural production in the fertile areas concentrates on sugar beet, wheat and barley; the main crops in the less fertile areas are potatoes, rye and flax. The region is noted for its cattle breeding.

The administrative centre of the region is Hradec Králové (pop. 84,900); its chief industry is engineering, though the chemical, rubber and food industries are also important and pianos (Petrof), furniture and clothing are also produced. The city has an old historical centre with Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings, as well as modern quarters built over the course of many decades. Another large centre in the region is Pardubice (pop. 77,877), with an important chemical industry in the city itself as well as at nearby Semtín, and important electrical engineering and food industries. The city has many architectural monuments, most of them dating from the 16th century, when it entered a period of major expansion. The largest town at the foot of the Giant Mountains is Trutnov (pop. 24,765); its main industrial products are textiles and fur coats. Náchod (pop. 19,224), an important centre for the textile and rubber industries, also has a famous château, which was originally a Gothic castle and which was later adapted in the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Dvůr Králové nad Labem (pop. 16,775) is a large cotton industry centre with well-preserved remains of Gothic fortifications and a number of ancient buildings. Among the more important smaller towns are Turnov, with a glass industry and workshops for cutting and polishing precious stones, and Chrudim, the former centre of eastern Bohemia, with its many Gothic, Renaissance and

Baroque buildings. Litomyšl is known for its valuable cultural monuments and its important place in Czech history. Špindlerův Mlýn is a centre for tourism and winter sports.

The South Moravian Region

Southern Moravia and part of central Moravia fall into this region, which has an area of 15,029 sq. km and 1,966,800 inhabitants; the population density is 130,9 persons per sq. km. The two largest mountain systems in Czechoslovakia meet here — the Bohemian Massif (Česká vysočina) and the Western Carpathians (Západní Karpaty). The Bohemian Massif is represented in this region by the eastern slopes of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands and the Drahan group (Drahanská vrchovina). The Bohemian-Moravian Highlands reach their highest points — over 830 m — in the Jihlava and Žďár Hills (Jihlavské and Žďárské vrchy). The Drahan group includes an extensive karst area — the famous Moravian Karst — boasting an extensive system of caverns with a profusion of stalagmites and stalactites, subterranean streams and the famous Macocha Abyss, 138 m deep. The most important range of the Western Carpathians in this region is the White Carpathians (Bílé Karpaty); they do not exceed 1,000 m. The extensive basins, i.e. the lowlands lying between the two main systems, are very important economically from the point of view of transport. The main basins in the South Moravian region are the Dyje-Svratka Lowlands (Dyjsko-svratecký úval) and the Lower Moravian Lowlands (Dolnomoravský úval).

The whole region is drained by tributaries of the Danube. The main rivers are the Morava and the Svratka. The largest artificial lake on the Dyje is formed by the dam at Vranov (763 hectares); it is used mainly for water conservancy projects and recreation, like most of the other dams in this region. The South Moravian region is the warmest in the Czech

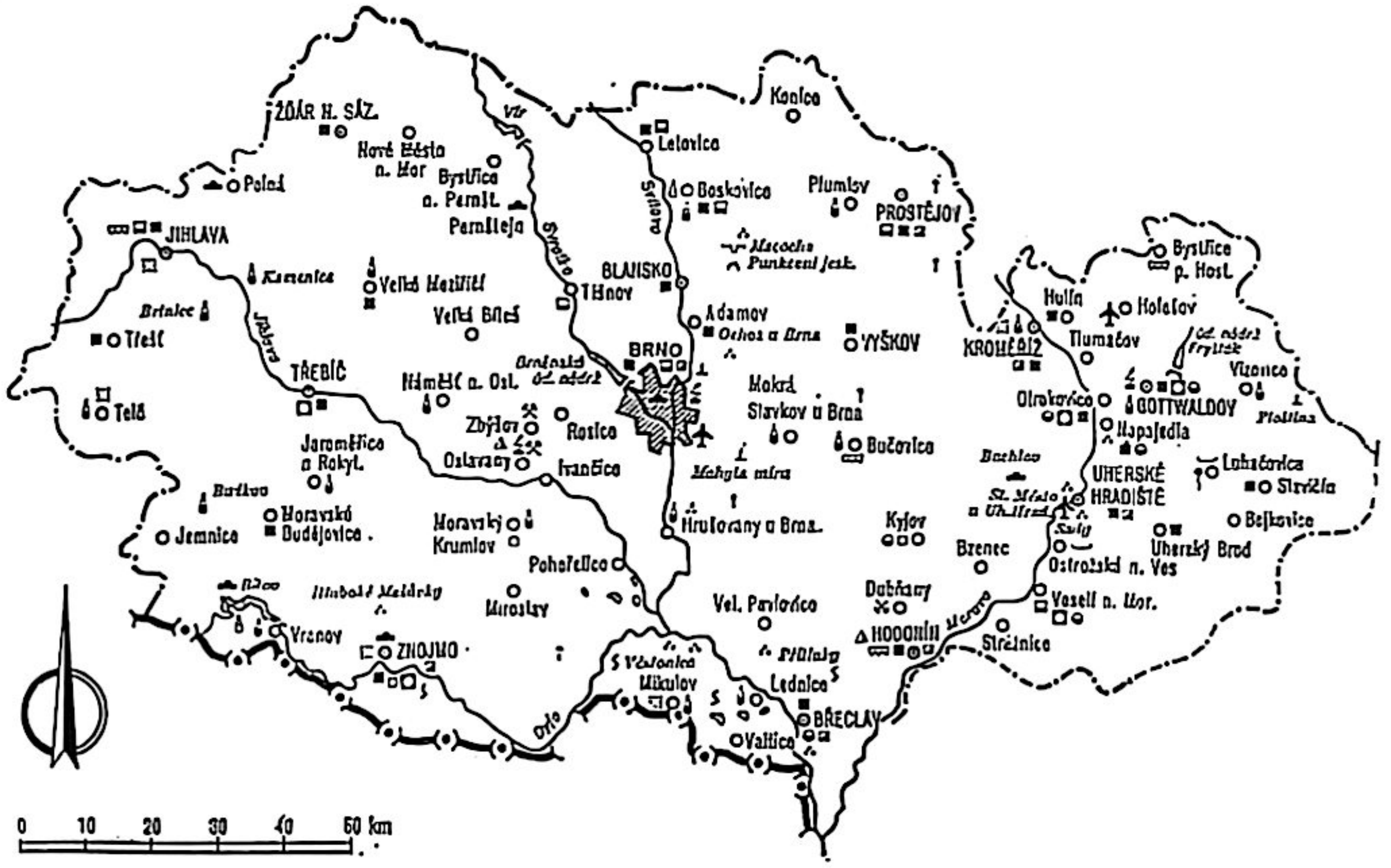
Socialist Republic, and has a fairly pronounced continental climate.

A wide variety of minerals is found here, but they mostly occur in rather small quantities. There is hard coal near Rosice and lignite in the south-east of the region; oil fields occur between Hodonín and Břeclav. The uranium ore found in the district of Žďár nad Sázavou is of greater importance. Raw materials for the building industry are also obtained in this region.

The engineering, textile and leatherworking industries of this region are very important in the national economy, as is its agricultural production (wheat, barley, sugar-beet, potatoes and pig-breeding).

The engineering industry is mostly concentrated in Brno and its environs; the main products are heavy machinery, industrial equipment, machine tools, armaments, etc. Other important engineering centres are Adamov, Blansko and Kuřim. New engineering works have been built at Uherský Brod, Uherské Hradiště, Žďár nad Sázavou, Uničov and Přerov; there is a highly developed chemical industry producing rubber articles and processing plastics at Gottwaldov, Otrokovice and Napajedla. The textile and clothing industries have their largest centres at Brno and Prostějov. A special feature of this region is the leatherworking industry, situated mainly at Gottwaldov and Třebíč. The food industry tends to be concentrated in the larger towns, particularly in Brno, Hodonín, Znojmo, Břeclav, and Uherské Hradiště. Brno, as well as many other towns such as Rousínov, Bučovice, Hodonín, Holešov and Bystřice pod Hostýnem are important centres of the woodworking industry.

Agricultural production benefits greatly from the fertile soils found in the lowlands. The main crops are wheat and barley (for malt production), sugar-beet and maize. In the southern districts of this region, an important place is held by vegetable and fruit growing as well as by successful viniculture


ŽĎÁR N. SÁZ.
Nové Město n. Mor.
Bystřice n. Pernšt.
Pernštejn
Polná
JIHLAVA
Kamenice
Velké Meziříčí
Velká Bíteš
Brtnice
Třešť
Telč
TŘEBÍČ
Náměšť n. Osl.
Jaroměřice n. Rokyt.
Zbýšov
Rosice
Oslavany
Ivančice
Budkov
Jemnice
Moravské Budějovice
Moravský Krumlov
Pohořelice
Miroslav
Vranov
ZNOJMO
Dyje
Lelekovice
Boskovice
Blansko
Tišnov
Adamov
BRNO
Kunice
Plumlov
PROSTĚJOV
Macocha
Punkevní jesk.
VYŠKOV
Slavkov u Brna
Bučovice
Mohyla míru
Hrušovany u Brna
Kyjov
Vel. Pavlovice
Dubňany
HODONÍN
Mikulov
Valtice
Lednice
BŘECLAV
KROMĚŘÍŽ
Hulín
Holešov
Bystřice p. Host.
Tlumačov
Otrokovice
GOTTWALDOV
Napajedla
Vizovice
UHERSKÉ HRADIŠTĚ
Luhačovice
Slavičín
Uherský Brod
Bojkovice
Buchlov
Brenec
Ostrožská n. Ves
Veselí n. Mor.
Strážnice
Morava
0 10 20 30 40 50 km

The administrative centre of the region is Brno (pop. 353,477), the second largest city in Czechoslovakia. It is the venue of annual international trade fairs and has many cultural and scientific institutions. Brno was founded in the 11th century, on the site of a settlement dating from Romanesque times. It has many well-preserved historical monuments, particularly in the Renaissance style. Špilberk, originally a Gothic castle, dating from the 13th century, was subsequently rebuilt as a fortress that was later used during the Nazi occupation as a prison. Today, it is a national monument.

The second largest city in the region is Gottwaldov (pop. 67,581), a fine example of modern town-planning. It is the largest centre for the production of footwear in Czechoslovakia, and has important engineering and chemical industries as well as animated film studios. Otrokovice (pop. 15,696) has large leatherworking and engineering industries (Moravan aircraft). Jihlava (pop. 44,110), a former mining centre founded in the 13th century, with well-preserved fortifications and many Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings, has several engineering works and textile mills, as well as woodworking and food plants. Czechoslovakia's largest centre for the ready-to-wear industry is Prostějov (pop. 46,708); agricultural machinery is also produced here, and the town has a brewery, a malt-house and a sugar refinery. Parts of the Gothic city walls from the 14th century are still standing, and the town has a château built in the Renaissance style. Uherské Hradiště (pop. 31,760), a conurbation consisting of three localities, is an important centre, particularly for its engineering production (aircraft, electrical engineering articles and measuring instruments), and its food and woodworking industries. The city has medieval and Baroque monuments and in the neighbourhood there are several archaeological sites where finds dating from the days of the Great Moravian Empire have been made. Znojmo (pop. 28,882) has many 14th to 16th century buildings and fortifications, and today it is an important food industry centre (tinned vegetable plants, a distillery, a brewery), and is also known for its engineering and ceramic products. Many architectural monuments have been preserved at Kroměříž (pop. 22,964). The most outstanding of them is a château, a former subsidiary seat of the archbishops of Olomouc, originally a Gothic castle and subsequently rebuilt in the Baroque style, which houses a picture gallery and a museum. Today, there are engineering and food industries at Kroměříž. The cultural centre of Moravian Slovakia, an area with a distinctive folklore, is Hodonín (pop. 22,464). It has an important woodworking industry, engineering works (fittings), a building industry (bricks) and a food industry (a sugar refinery, a distillery, a tobacco factory and a chocolate plant). Oil is produced in the environs of the town. Žďár nad Sázavou (pop. 17,544), a town with many Gothic buildings, is also known for its large engineering works. About 30 km to the south-east lies one of the most impressive Gothic castles in Czechoslovakia, Pernštejn. Břeclav (pop. 20,717) is a centre for the chemical and engineering industries. The extensive archaeological site of Pohansko, which lies nearby, is famous for the large town dating from the era of the Great Moravian Empire (9th — 10th centuries) that has been uncovered there; it contains the remains of dwellings and the stone walls of a pre-Romanesque church.

Other important towns in the region include Blansko (heavy engineering works), Uherský Brod, with a Museum of Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius), and Luhačovice Spa, which specializes in the treatment of respiratory diseases. Not far from Slavkov (Austerlitz) near Brno is the Peace Mound, a memorial and museum commemorating the battle fought there in 1805 during the Napoleonic Wars. The remarkable Renaissance château at Lednice near Břeclav, which was originally a Gothic castle, is known for its rich collections and extensive park. Like Lednice, the ancient town of Mikulov also lies at the foot of the Pavlov Hills (Pavlovské vrchy); its large château, originally a Gothic castle, was rebuilt in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The existence of human settlements in this region in the distant past is documented by many finds from different pre-historic periods; the main archaeological sites are situated in the Moravian Karst area and around the Pavlov Hills. The early Stone Age site near Dolní Věstonice is world-famous, in particular because of the ancient statuette of the fertility goddess found there (the "Venus of Věstonice").

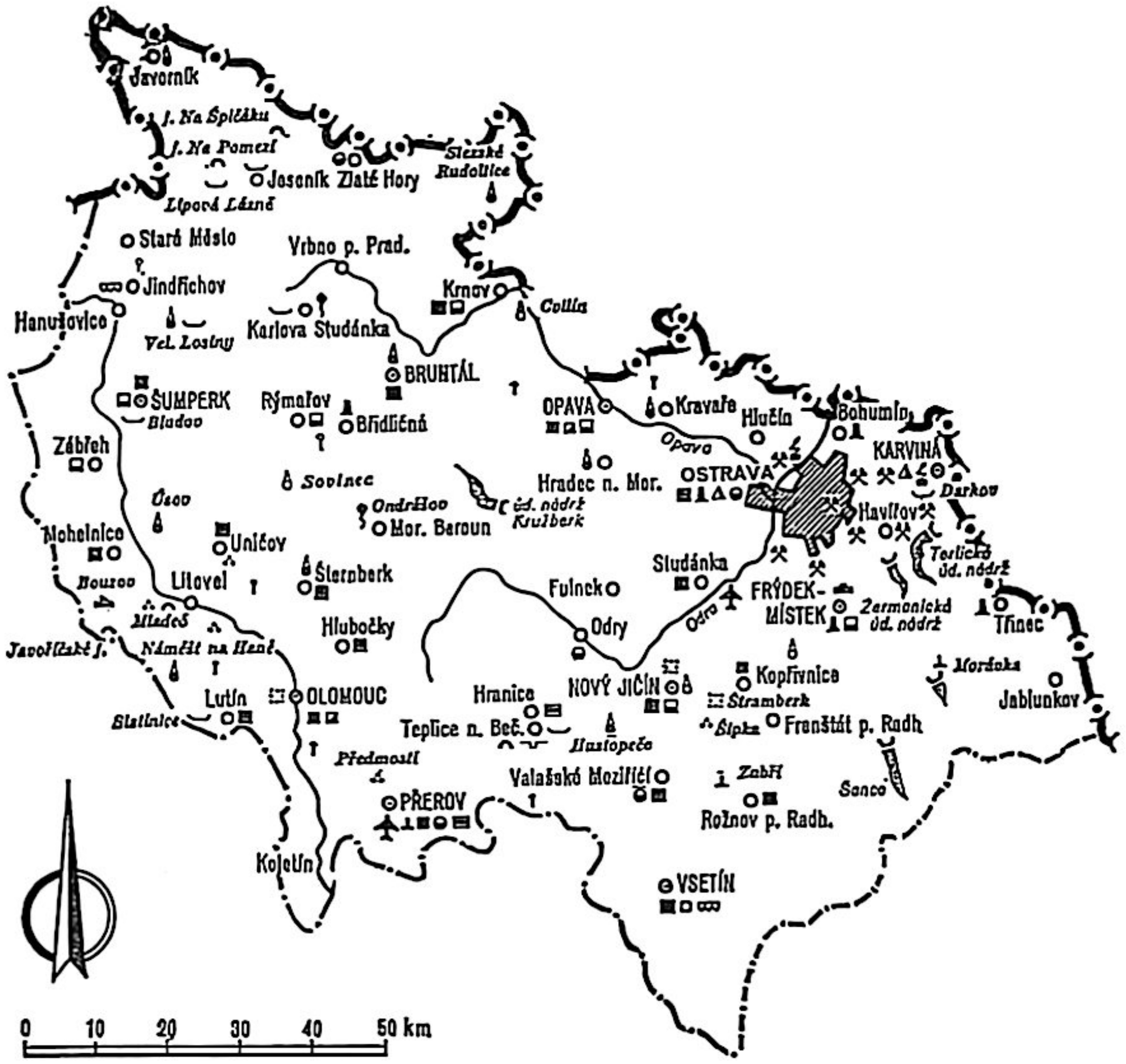
The North Moravian Region

With an area of 11,066 sq. km and a population of 1,849,300, this region is the most densely populated in the country (167 persons per sq. km). The two mountain systems that meet on the territory of this region — the Bohemian Massif and the Western Carpathians — are separated by the Moravian Gate (Moravská brána). The most prominent part of the Bohemian Massif is the Hrubý Jeseník range (highest point, Praděd, 1,492 m), which is thickly forested. The Low (Nízký) Jeseník range (highest point, Biskupská kupa 891 m) slopes gently towards the Moravian Gate and falls abruptly in the direction of the Upper Moravian Lowlands (Hornomoravský úval). The Moravian-Silesian Beskyds (Moravsko-slezské Beskydy), which reach a height of 1,324 m (Lysá hora), are part of the Western Carpathian system.

The main European watershed is situated in this region. The waters of the Morava and its tributaries flow to the Black Sea, while the Odra (Oder) and its tributaries flow to the Baltic. The fluctuating water level of the rivers as well as the shortage of drinking water in the industrial districts has necessitated the construction of a number of smaller dams. More than a third of the region is covered by forests, mostly of spruce; in the long stretches of woodland, along the Morava river, beech predominates. Climatic conditions differ greatly with altitude, and are strongly influenced by the exposure to winds from the north.

Huge deposits of top quality hard coal occur in the region: the Ostrava district yields 85 per cent of Czechoslovakia's total hard-coal output. The region has smaller quantities of polymetallic ores in the Hrubý and Low Jeseník ranges as well as of graphite (near Staré Město). There is a good supply of raw materials for the building industry (limestone near Hranice and Štramberk, granite in the Jeseníky range) as well as of mineral waters.

The Ostrava district is Czechoslovakia's largest area for ferrous metallurgy, which is concentrated at Ostrava, Třinec, Bohumín, Frýdek-Místek, and Karviná. The production of heavy machinery for mines and metal works is centred at Ostrava; lorries are made at Kopřivnice, railway wagons


Javorník
J. Na Špičáku
J. Na Pomezí
Jeseník
Zlaté Hory
Slezské Rudoltice
Lipová Lázně
Staré Město
Vrbno p. Prad.
Jindřichov
Hanušovice
Krnov
Cvilín
Vel. Losiny
Karlova Studánka
BRUNTÁL
ŠUMPERK
Bludov
Rýmařov
Břidličná
OPAVA
Kravaře
Hlučín
Bohumín
KARVINÁ
Darkov
Zábřeh
Sovinec
Úsov
Ondřejov
Mor. Beroun
úd. nádrž Kružberk
Hradec n. Mor.
Opava
OSTRAVA
Havířov
Těrlicko úd. nádrž
Mohelnice
Uničov
Šternberk
Bouzov
Litovel
Mladeč
Javořičské j.
Náměšť na Hané
Hlubočky
Fulnek
Odry
Studénka
Odra
FRÝDEK-MÍSTEK
Žermanická úd. nádrž
Třinec
Lutín
Slatinice
OLOMOUC
Hranice
NOVÝ JIČÍN
Kopřivnice
Štramberk
Morávka
Jablunkov
Teplice n. Beč.
Hustopeče
Šipka
Frenštát p. Radh.
Předmostí
Valašské Meziříčí
Zubří
Šance
PŘEROV
Rožnov p. Radh.
Kojetín
VSETÍN
0
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40
50 km

at Studénka, pumps at Lutín, electrical engineering products at Rožnov pod Radhoštěm and at Valašské Meziříčí, and equipment for the building industry and optical instruments at Přerov. The chemical industry is concentrated at Ostrava and Valašské Meziříčí, and the rubber industry at Odra and Zubří; the pharmaceutical industry is based at Komárov near Opava and at Olomouc. The building industry is represented at Hranice and Štramberk and the textile industry at Krnov, Bruntál, Rýmařov, Šumperk and Nový Jičín. The main centres of the food industry are Olomouc, Přerov, Kojetín and Opava.

There is a relative scarcity of arable land in the region. The most fertile areas are along the Morava river and in the neighbourhood of Opava. The main agricultural crops are wheat, barley and sugar-beet. Large areas in the Ostrava coal district are being recultivated.

The administrative centre of the region, Ostrava (pop. 292,404), is the fourth largest city in Czechoslovakia, and it ranks second in the number of persons employed in industry. There are many coalmines and power plants (the largest with a capacity of 677 MW), metal works, heavy engineering plants and chemical factories. The largest plants are the Klement Gottwald Vítkovice Iron and Steel Works, and the modern New Klement Gottwald Iron Works. Among the other branches of industry, an important place is held by the food industry.

Havířov (pop. 84,665) is a modern satellite town with a small industry. Olomouc (pop. 82,373) is an ancient city and the seat of a university. It has many architectural monuments — an originally Přemyslid castle from the 11th century, many Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings, palaces and churches, the archbishop's palace and the remains of Romanesque buildings. Large engineering and food industry plants are concentrated at the outskirts of the city. Karviná (pop. 79,060) is an industrial centre with extensive mines and large engineering works. It forms a conurbation with neighbouring Orlová (pop. 25,277) and the smaller Petřvaldov. Opava (pop. 53,386), a city of historical importance and the former centre of Czech Silesia, was heavily damaged during World War II. Today, it has heavy engineerring works, as well as textile and food industry plants. Frýdek-Místek (pop. 43,080) is a metal and textile industry centre. It has a Gothic castle rebuilt in the Baroque style, and many examples of folk architecture dating from the 18th century. Přerov (pop. 43,012), with a château adapted in the Renaissance style and with the remains of Gothic fortifications, has engineering, chemical, leatherworking and food industries. Třinec (pop. 31,832) has a large metal industry. Šumperk (pop. 26,639) has a number of textile factories.

Krnov (pop. 24,743) has large textile mills and engineering works and a plant making pipe-organs, as well as many old buildings. The rapidly expanding town of Vsetín (pop. 23,823) has large heavy engineering works, as well as electrical engineering, furniture and glass industries. Nový Jičín (pop. 21,303) has a hat factory and other textile plants, as well as an engineering industry. Valašské Meziříčí (pop. 19,037) is an engineering industry centre, and also includes glass and furniture production and large chemical works.

There are several important spas in the region: the largest is Jeseník, a renowned centre for the treatment of nervous diseases. In the neighbourhood of Hranice, along both banks of the Bečva river, lies the remarkable Hranice Karst area. Its Zbrašov aragonite cavern is unique. The nearby Hranice Abyss (Hranická propast), which appears on Comenius' 17th century map of Moravia, is now thought to be the deepest abyss in Czechoslovakia. Finds at the Mladeč caverns include traces of human settlements from the pre-historic era. The Javoříčko caverns, named after a village burnt down at the close of World War II by the fascists, are particularly beautiful. Not far from here there is the large, originally Gothic castle of Bouzov, which was adapted in the Romantic period. Rožnov pod Radhoštěm has Europe's second oldest open-air museum, with many examples of Wallachian wooden folk architecture.

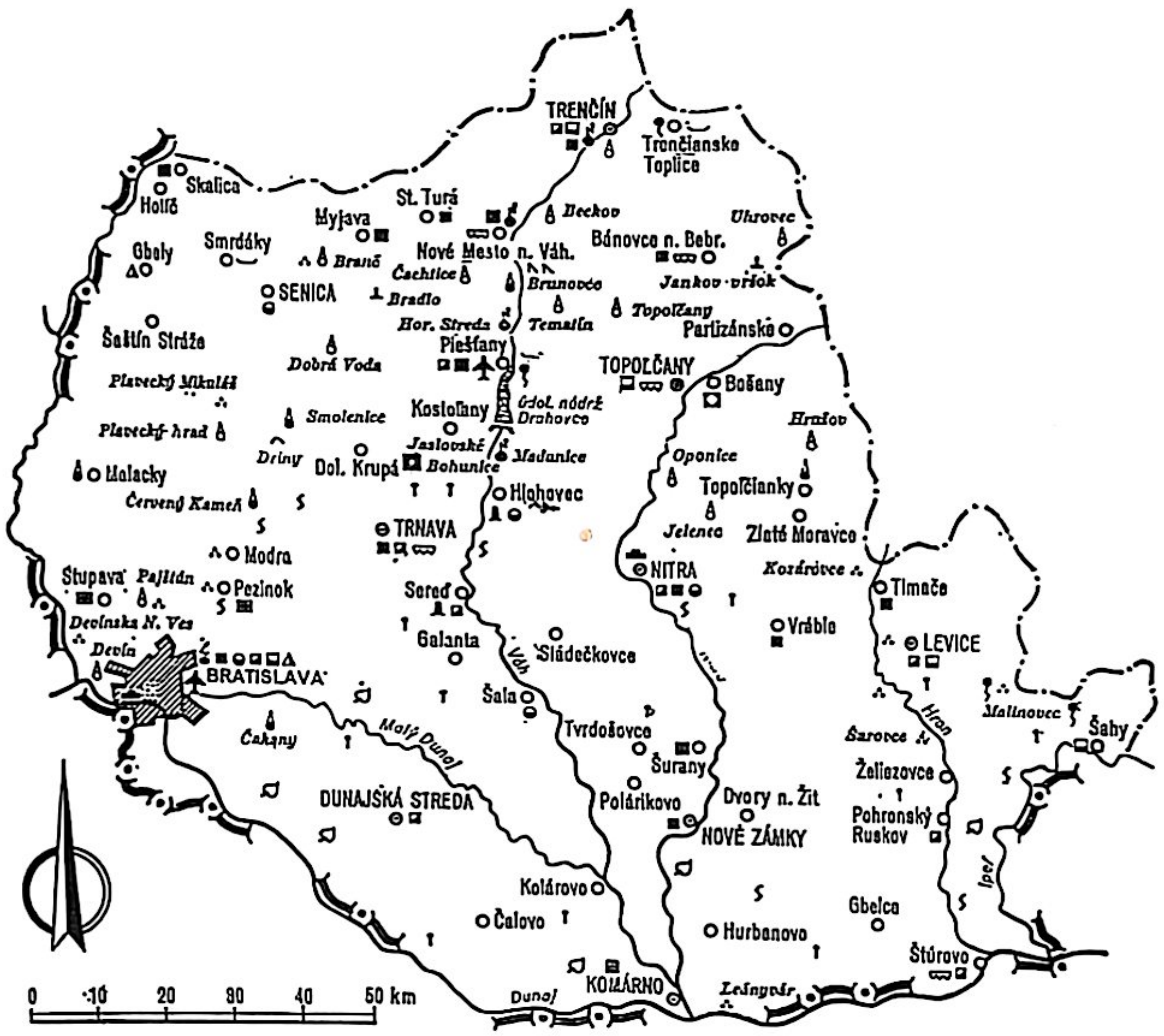
The West Slovakian Region and Bratislava

This is the smallest of the Slovak regions (14,491 sq. km), though the largest in population (1,610, 542); its average density is 111 persons per sq. km. Czechoslovakia's largest national minority group (Hungarians) lives in the area along its southern border. The capital of the Slovak Socialist Republic and the third largest city in Czechoslovakia, Bratislava, is situated in this region, mainly on the left bank of the Danube.

The largest part of the region is taken up by the extensive Danube Plain, generally a very fertile area, especially in the Trnava, Nitra and Hron Hills (Trnavská, Nitrianská and Pohronská pahorkatina). The western part of the region includes the smaller and less fertile Záhorie Plain. These two plains are separated by a low mountain range — the Lesser Carpathians (Malé Karpaty). The northernmost part of the region, along the border with Moravian Slovakia, is taken up by the White Carpathians, which rise to an altitude of less than 1,000 m. The Danube Plain is not forested but the mountains are covered with beech and oak woods. Many places have rare warm-weather flora, and the Kováčovské kopce mountain reserve is exceptionally beautiful.

The lower courses of Slovakia's most important rivers flow through this region to the Danube, which forms the border and is the largest river in Czechoslovakia. The Váh is extensively utilized for electrical power generation. Its lateral canals include a system of through-flow power plants. The region is one of the warmest in the State, mainly owing to the Danube Plain, where the average annual temperature exceeds 9° C.

The administrative centre of the region is Bratislava (368 sq km, pop. 328,765), the capital of the Slovak Socialist Republic and the seat of the Slovak national bodies. The city is one of the largest industrial centres in Czechoslovakia, and has a university and several colleges, scientific and research institutes and many cultural institutions. Bratislava lies on the Danube, a great advantage from the point of view of international transport. The first settlement on the site of the present-day city dates from the pre-historic era; later, a military outpost of the Roman Empire was established here, and, in the days of the Great Moravian Empire, a Slavonic fortified settlement. Bratislava Castle had arisen by the beginning of the 10th


TRENČÍN
Trenčianske Teplice
Skalica
Holíč
St. Turá
Myjava
Beckov
Uhrovec
Bánovce n. Bebr.
Gbely
Smrdáky
Branč
Nové Mesto n. Váh.
Čachtice
Janko-vršok
SENICA
Bradlo
Brunovce
Topoľčany
Temetín
Hor. Streda
Partizánske
Šaštín Stráže
Piešťany
Dobrá Voda
TOPOĽČANY
Plavecký Mikuláš
Bošany
Vodná nádrž Drahovce
Kostoľany
Smolenice
Hrušov
Plavecký hrad
Jaslovské Bohunice
Madunice
Oponice
Dolné Krupá
Drímy
Malacky
Topoľčianky
Červený Kameň
Hlohovec
Jelenec
Zlaté Moravce
TRNAVA
Modra
NITRA
Kozárovce
Stupava
Pajštún
Pezinok
Tlmače
Sereď
Devínska N. Ves
Vráble
Devín
Galanta
Sládečkovce
LEVICE
Váh
BRATISLAVA
Šaľa
Malinovec
Šahy
Čakany
Tvrdošovce
Malý Dunaj
Šurany
Sarovce
Hron
Želiezovce
DUNAJSKÁ STREDA
Polárikovo
Dvory n. Žit.
NOVÉ ZÁMKY
Pohronský Ruskov
Ipeľ
Kolárovo
Čalovo
Gbelce
Hurbanovo
Štúrovo
KOMÁRNO
Dunaj
Leányvár
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century. In the 16th century, the city became the temporary capital of that part of Hungary not occupied by the Turks.

Bratislava is an important centre of the chemical industry: enterprises include the Georgi Dimitrov Works, the petrochemical Slovnaft complex, the Peace Works concentrating on chemical fibres and the large Matador rubber plant.

The engineering industry is also important: the main enterprises are the Tesla Works (radio sets), the Kablo and Meopta factories, the Považské engineering plant, Kovosmalt, a branch factory of the Tatra Works, and others. The food industry produces flour, beer, sweets and vegetable oils. The city also has textile and clothing industries.

The West Slovakian region has important chemical, engineering and food industries. Its most important mineral resources are the oil and natural gas deposits in the Záhorie Plain. It has a good supply of raw materials for the building industry and many mineral springs. Czechoslovakia's first atomic power plant is situated at Jaslovské Bohunice near Trnava. The engineering industry is distributed all over the region. The most important engineering centres are Komárno, Myjava, Trnava and Zlaté Moravce. The presence of oil and natural gas and sufficient quantities of water have promoted the development of the chemical industry in this region; its largest centre is Bratislava. Other chemical works are situated at Šaľa, Senica and Hlohovec. The region also has an important clothing industry, centred at Trenčín and Topoľčany. Leatherworking plants are found at Partizánske (footwear) and Bošany (tanneries). The most important food industry centres are Bratislava, Trenčín and Piešťany.

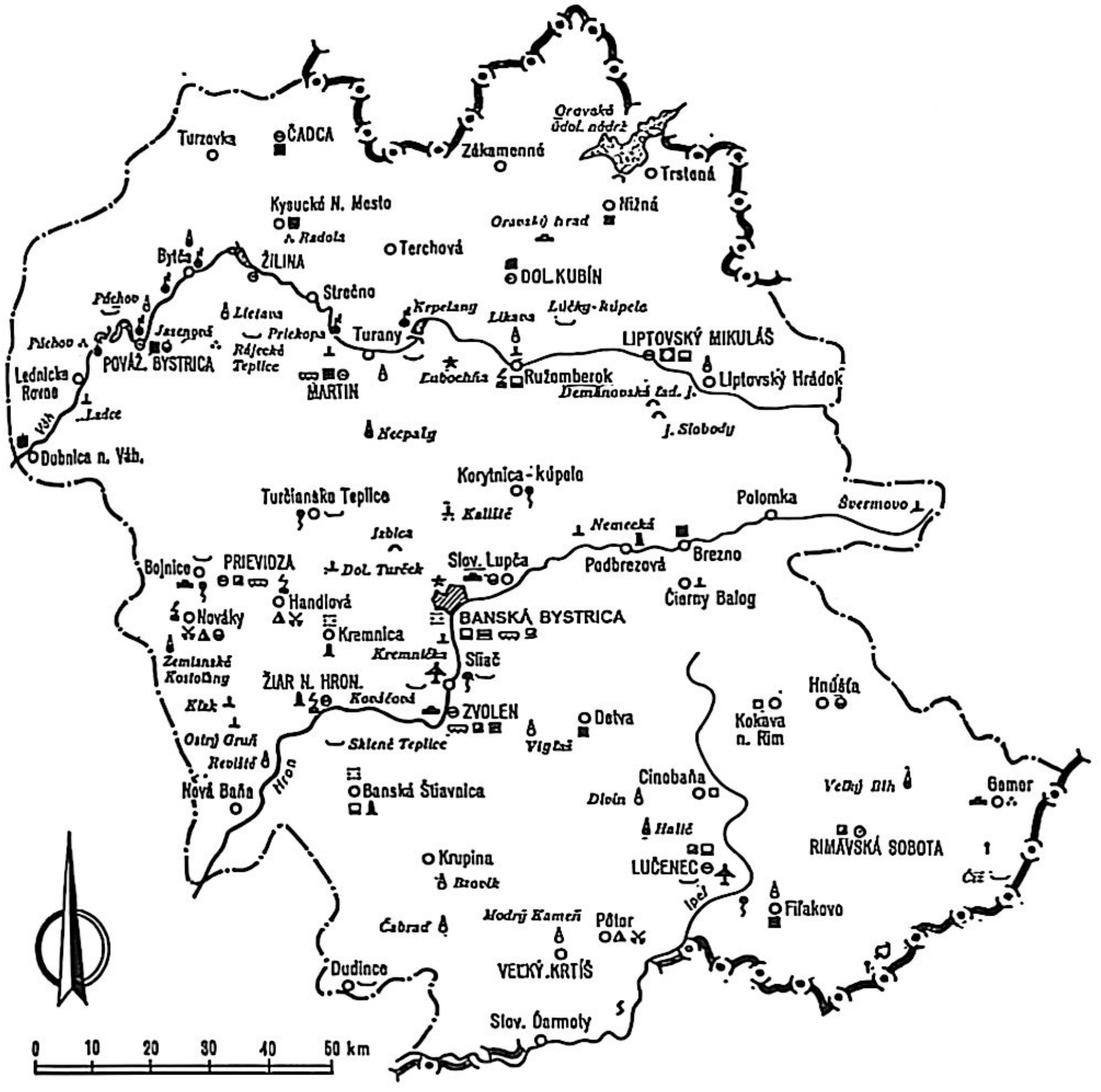
Agricultural enterprises in this region cultivate large areas of farm land. The most productive area is the Danube Plain, the main granary for the whole of Czechoslovakia, where the crops include cereals (wheat, barley, maize), sugar-beet and vegetables. The slopes of the Lesser Carpathians are the main vine-growing area in Czechoslovakia. Fruit-growing is also important in this region. Livestock production concentrates mainly on pig-breeding.

Nitra (pop. 49,369) is one of the oldest cities in Czechoslovakia, the centre of Pribina's Principality and later a part of the Great Moravian Empire. The castle and the nearby site of an ancient Slavonic settlement have been declared a national cultural monument. Today, Nitra has a highly diversified industry, mainly food production, but also including the engineering, chemical and building industries. Another leading industrial town is Trnava (pop. 47,460); it was a large and important town in the Middle Ages, an ecclesiastical centre and the seat of a university. It has many architectural monuments in styles ranging from the Gothic to the Empire. The city has large engineering works (automobile chassis), a food industry and a woodworking industry. Trenčín (pop. 37,347) is a large industrial centre comprising engineering, textile, clothing and leatherworking plants, as well as a food industry. The Gothic castle of Trenčín, founded in the middle of the 13th century and, in the 14th century, the seat of Matúš Čák, renowned for his efforts to free Slovakia from Hungarian domination, was built on the site of a Slavonic fortified settlement from the 9th—12th centuries, which was in turn preceded by an even older settlement from the first millennium B. C. The Roman inscription on the rock wall beneath the castle from around 179 A. D. is the oldest written record discovered in the country. Nearby Trenčianské Teplice is a pleasant thermal spa. The largest engineering centre in this region is Komárno (pop. 27,941): it has large shipyards (river vessels and ocean-going ships) and a tobacco factory. The town originated in the Renaissance period as a fortress built for defence against the Turks. Nové Zámky (pop. 26,778) was also a Renaissance fortress originally. Its industries include engineering works (refrigerators) and food plants. The largest spa centre in the Slovak Socialist Republic for patients with rheumatic ailments is Piešťany (pop. 24,927); it also has engineering, clothing and food industries. Food production is also represented at Levice (pop. 18,847). Another town with an important engineering industry (air conditioning equipment) as well as textile, clothing and food industries is Nové Mesto nad Váhom.

The Central Slovakian Region

The largest region in Czechoslovakia, Central Slovakia, covers an area of 17,976 sq. km. However, its population of 1,436,300 gives it one of the lowest population densities in the country (79.9 inhabitants per sq. km).

The region has a mountainous surface. The mountain ranges alternate with valleys, but nearly half of the region lies 500m above sea-level. In this region the outer arc of the Carpathians comprises the Javorníky group, the Slovak Beskyds (Slovenské Beskydy) rising to a height of 1,725 m (Babia hora), the Kysuce group (Kysucké vrchy) and the Oravská Magura range. The belt of the inner Carpathians consists of three separate arcs: the High Tatras (Vysoké Tatry), the Low Tatras (Nízké Tatry) and the Slovak Ore Mountains (Slovenské Rudohorie). The High Tatras comprise the Strážovské Heights (Strážovské vrchy), with a "rock town" formed of the jagged Súľov conglomerate rocks, the Lesser Fatra (Malá Fatra), one of Czechoslovakia's most beautiful mountain ranges (highest point, Kriváň, 1,709 m), the Choč mountains (Chočské pohorie) and the Western Tatras (Západné Tatry) with Bystrá, 2,248 m, the highest peak in this region. The Low Tatras comprise the Žiar mountains, the Greater Fatra (Veľká Fatra) and the major part of the Low Tatra group. The Low Tatras (a National Park) form a massive range with a highly varied flora in the mountain meadows and abundant fauna on the forested slopes. The highest peaks rise to more than 2,000 m above sea-level (Ďumbier, 2,043 m). The northern slopes of the Low Tatra group include the Liptov Karst area (Liptovský kras) in the Demänova and Sväty Ján valleys. The former, in particular, is known for its underground spaces with rich stalactite decoration and an ice cave. The third arc of the inner Carpathians is formed by the western and central parts of the Slovak Ore Mountains. The highest section of a belt of volcanic rock is the Štiavnica group (Štiavnické vrchy). The Carpathian mountain ranges are separated by long valleys where the main populated areas and the centres of the economic life of the region are to be found. These include the Váh valleys (the Liptov, Turniany and Žilina valleys) and the Hron and Orava valleys.


Turzovka
ČADCA
Zákamenná
Oravská údol. nádrž
Trstená
Kysucké N. Mesto
Radola
Terchová
Oravský hrad
Nižná
Bytča
ŽILINA
DOL. KUBÍN
Púchov
Strečno
Krpelany
Likava
Lúčky-kúpele
Lietava
Jasenová
Prielopa
Rájecké Teplice
Turany
LIPTOVSKÝ MIKULÁŠ
Lednické Rovne
POVAŽ. BYSTRICA
MARTIN
Ľubochňa
Ružomberok
Demänovská lad. j.
Liptovský Hrádok
Ladce
Váh
Necpaly
J. Slobody
Dubnica n. Váh.
Korytnica - kúpele
Turčianske Teplice
Kališté
Polomka
Švermovo
Izbica
Nemecká
Bojnice
PRIEVIDZA
Dol. Turček
Slov. Lupča
Podbrezová
Brezno
Handlová
Čierny Balog
Nováky
BANSKÁ BYSTRICA
Kremnica
Zemianské Kostoľany
Kremnické
Sliač
ŽIAR N. HRON.
Kordíky
Hnúšťa
Kľak
ZVOLEN
Detva
Kokava n. Rim
Ostrý Grúň
Sklené Teplice
Vígľaš
Revištské
Hron
Nová Baňa
Banská Štiavnica
Cinobaňa
Divín
Veľký Blh
Gemer
Halič
RIMAVSKÁ SOBOTA
Krupina
LUČENEC
Bzovík
Ipeľ
Čabraď
Modrý Kameň
Pôtor
Fiľakovo
Dudince
VEĽKÝ. KRTÍŠ
Slov. Ďarmoty
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10
20
30
40
50 km

Most of the Slovak rivers originate in this region: the largest of them are the Váh, Hron and Nitra. The Váh and its tributary, the Orava, and to a certain extent the Nitra, are used for hydro-electric power production. The power plants on the Váh mostly work on the through-flow power system, with the exception of two peak-load power stations at the large dams near Nimnice and Krpeľany. The second largest artificial lake in Czechoslovakia is on the Orava (3,500 hectares).

The Central Slovakian region is the most heavily forested area in Czechoslovakia. The high mountain ranges are covered with coniferous forests, while the lower areas have oak and beech woods.

The climate is generally cool and humid, with lower temperatures and higher precipitations than in any other region. Only the southern part of central Slovakia has a somewhat warmer climate.

The region has a long mining tradition. Kremnica, Banská Štiavnica and the area in and around Banská Bystrica were among the more important gold, silver and copper mining centres of Europe in the Middle Ages. Copper and zinc ores are still mined at Banská Štiavnica and antimony ore is extracted in the Low Tatras. However, the most rapid growth now is being registered in the sphere of non-metallic raw materials. Brown-coal mining in this region is concentrated in the Handlová-Prievidza district, and lignite is obtained at Nováky. Mining is being also stepped up in the southern part of the region. Central Slovakia also has considerable limestone and magnesite deposits.

The woodworking and engineering industries of this region are very important in the national economy. The traditional industry in this region used to be metal working. At present, the largest metallurgical centre in central Slovakia is the aluminium combine at Žiar nad Hronom. High-grade steel is made at Podbrezová, and ferro-alloys are produced at Istebné. Engineering works are based at Dubnica nad Váhom and at Považská Bystrica. Nováky is a large chemical centre and there are smaller chemical plants at Žilina and Slovenská Ľupča. The rubber industry is centred at Púchov. The textile industry is located at Ružomberok, Žilina, Lučenec and Liptovský Mikuláš, and clothing industry is mainly concentrated at Púchov. There are cement works in the Váh valley. Zvolen and Banská Bystrica have large woodworking factories, and many towns have saw-mills and furniture plants. The food industry centres are Zvolen, Rimavská Sobota and Banská Bystrica.

The Central Slovakian region is the richest in the country in forests, pastures and meadows.

Agriculture concentrates mainly on livestock production; grain and potatoes are also grown.

The administrative centre of the region is Banská Bystrica (pop. 52,117), an old mining town dating back to the 13th century. In 1944, Banská Bystrica was the centre of the Slovak National Uprising. It has a textile industry, a woodworking complex, modern cement works, an engineering industry, metal works and a food industry. The largest city in the region is Žilina (pop. 55,253), with many different industries and a College of Transport, the only one in Czechoslovakia. The most impressive architectural monument in the city is the well-preserved Romanesque church dating from the 13th century. Martin (pop. 47,101) is the centre of the largest engineering works in Slovakia and also has important woodworking, textile, food and printing industries. It also has a long cultural tradition, and is the seat of the Slovak National Museum. Prievidza (pop. 30,447) has food, leatherworking and woodworking industries. There is an outstanding Gothic castle rebuilt in the Renaissance style in Zvolen (pop. 28,689): in the 15th century it was the seat of the Hussite warrior Jan Jiskra of Brandýs, and it is now a national cultural monument. The main industries in this town are the woodworking, food and engineering industries. Lučenec (pop. 23,015) has textile and food industries, and Ružomberok (pop. 22,320) a large textile plant and one of Czechoslovakia's largest pulp mills. Liptovský Mikuláš (pop. 19,243) is a leatherworking and textile industry centre. Levice (pop. 18,847) has a food industry. Považská Bystrica (pop. 18,872) is a large engineering centre, and also has a chemical industry. Handlová (pop. 16,244) is a centre for brown-coal mining. Rimavská Sobota (pop. 15,269) has a large food industry.

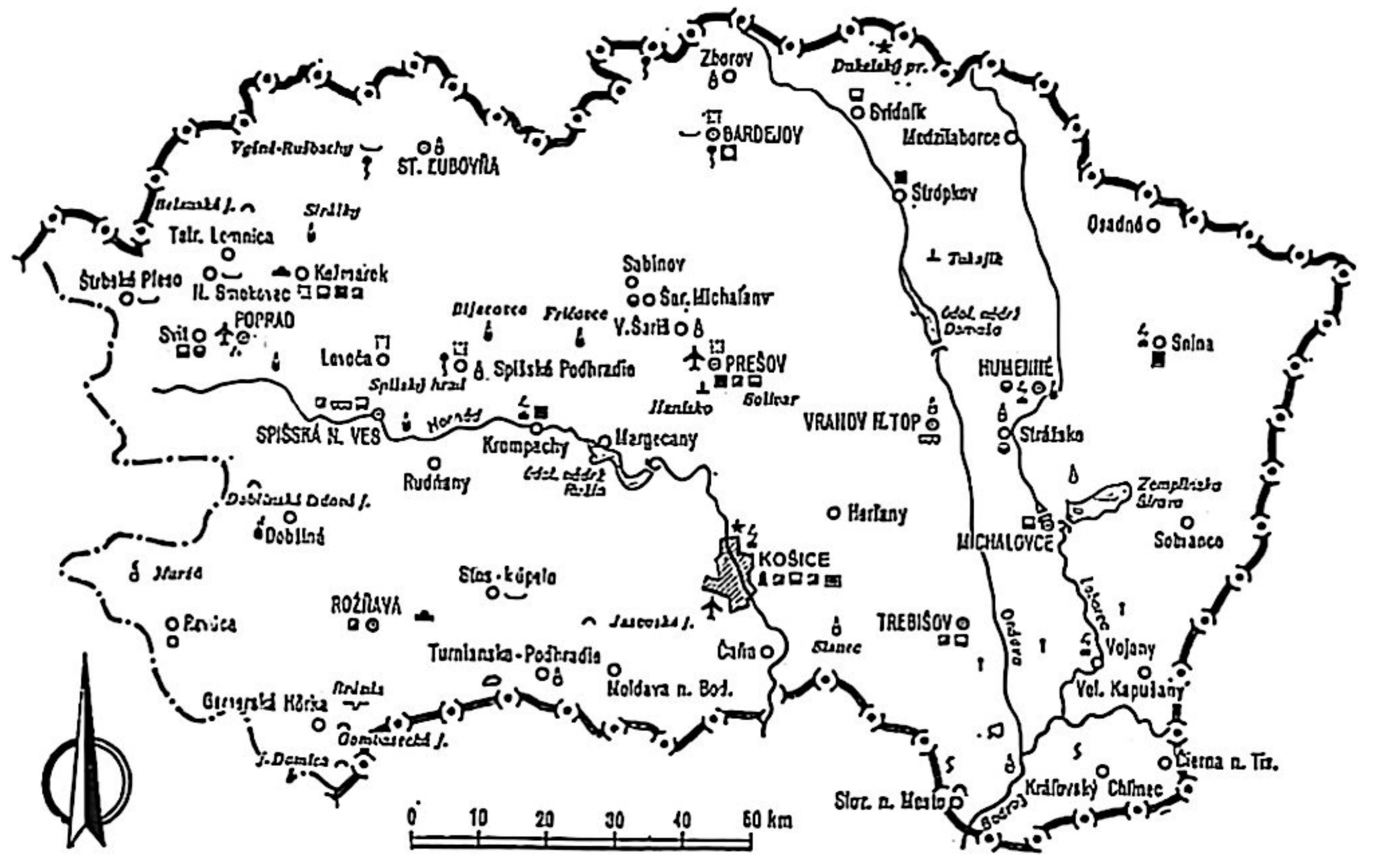
The beautifully situated Banská Štiavnica is an old mining town with a fortified castle church and many other architectural monuments in the Gothic and Renaissance styles. In 1763, the first College of Mining in the world was established here. Kremnica, where the State Mint is situated, is another medieval mining town. Detva, now an important heavy engineering centre, is also well-known for its folklore: the isolated wooden cottages in its environs are splendid examples of folk architecture. The most important spa in this region is Sliač, where patients come for treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Orava Castle, which was originally built in the Gothic style, later adapted in the Renaissance style and finally given Baroque fortifications, is a national cultural monument.

The East Slovakian Region

This is the easternmost region in the whole State. It covers an area of 16,179 sq. km and has a population of 1,298,500, a density of 80 inhabitants per sq. km. The region's industrial and agricultural production is the lowest in the Republic.

The highest as well as the lowest points in Czechoslovakia are found in this region. The High Tatra group reaches alpine heights, and is characterized by steep slopes and deep valleys that were shaped by ancient glaciers. Many glacial lakes (termed "pleso") are found here: the largest of them is Great Hincovo Lake (Veľké Hincovo pleso), extending over an area of 17.9 hectares. The highest peak in Czechoslovakia, Mt. Gerlach, soars to an altitude of 2,655 m. The north-eastern Belan Tatra group (Belanské Tatry) is a somewhat lower range; the highest point is Havran (2,152 m). The Low Tatra group is represented in this region only by Mt. Kráľova hoľa (1,948 m). East of the Low Tatras lies the area called the Slovak Paradise (Slovenský ráj), a favourite tourist attraction owing to its wild canyons and virtually unspoiled natural beauty. Czechoslovakia's largest ice cave — the Dobšiná cave (Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa) — is situated in the valley of the small Hnilec river.

The Slovak Ore Mountains are represented in


Zborov
BARDEJOV
ST. ĽUBOVŇA
Dukelský pr.
Svidník
Medzilaborce
Stropkov
Tokajík
Osadné
Snina
HUMENNÉ
Strážske
Sabinov
Šar. Michaľany
V. Šariš
PREŠOV
Solivar
VRANOV N. TOP.
Herľany
KOŠICE
Zemplínska šírava
Sobrance
MICHALOVCE
TREBIŠOV
Slanec
Ondava
Laborec
Vojany
Vel. Kapušany
Čierna n. Tis.
Kráľovský Chlmec
Bodrog
Čaňa
Moldava n. Bod.
Turňanska-Podhradie
ROŽŇAVA
Štos-kúpele
Gemerská Hôrka
Gombasecká j.
J. Domica
Dobšiná
Rudňany
Krompachy
Margecany
Hornád
SPIŠSKÁ N. VES
Spišský hrad
Spišské Podhradie
Levoča
POPRAD
Svit
Štrbské Pleso
Tatr. Lomnica
Kežmarok
Strážky
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this region by their north-eastern part (highest point, Stolica, 1,477 m). The largest karst area in Czechoslovakia — the Slovakian Karst (Slovenský kras), with the world-famous Domnica cave — occupies an area of about 800 sq. km. The Brazda Abyss, 211 m deep, is not open to the public. The most important ranges of volcanic origin are the Slanské mountains (Slanské vrchy) and the Vihorlat group with the beautiful lake called "The Sea's Eye" (Morské oko). The Spiš Magura range (Spišská Magura), the Levoča Heights (Levočské vrchy) and the Čerchov Mountains are part of the outer Carpathian arc, as is the extensive range of the Low Beskyds (Nízké Beskydy). This range has several saddles and passes, the best-known of which is the Dukla Pass, memorable for the battles fought there during World War II. The lowest spot in Czechoslovakia lies in the East Slovakian Plain, at the point where the Bodrog River leaves the territory of Slovakia (94 m).

The main river in the region is the Hornád, which is used for generating power. The rivers flowing through the East Slovakian Plain regularly overflow their banks and this situation is only now being remedied through water conservancy measures. The largest such project is the Zemplínská šírava dam, which forms the third largest artificial lake in Czechoslovakia (3,350 hectares). The region has a predominantly continental climate, with high temperatures in the summer and cold winters. The climate in the mountain areas is influenced by differences in altitude and by the degree of exposure to the elements; the southern slopes of the High Tatras have sufficient sunshine.

The mineral wealth of this region includes copper and magnesite, found in the Slovak Ore Mountains, smaller deposits of non-ferrous ores in a number of places, asbestos near Dobšiná, mercury near Merník and cooking salt near Prešov and Michalovce. The region is rich in raw materials for the building industry. It also has iron ore and manganese deposits which are not being exploited at present.

Ferrous metallurgy, which is centred at Košice, is an important branch of industry in the East Slovakian region. The East Slovakian Iron and Steel Works in Košice, the second largest metallurgical complex in Czechoslovakia, processes iron supplied by the USSR and concentrates mainly on sheet metal production. The engineering industry is represented at Košice (industrial equipment), Snina (agricultural machinery), Prešov (electrical engineering, anti-friction bearings) and Poprad (railway wagons). The chemical industry is centred at Strážské, Humenné and Svit (man-made fibres). The building materials industry concentrates mainly on the production of heat-resisting materials and ceramic products for building. The clothing industry is based at Prešov and Košice, and the food industry at Košice, Trebišov, Prešov and Spišská Nová Ves.

The main agricultural crops are wheat, barley, maize and potatoes. The region also is important

for its viniculture, livestock production and sheep-breeding.

The cultural and economic centre of the region is Košice (pop. 166,240), which has a university and many fine architectural monuments (Gothic and Renaissance buildings, Classicist palaces, a large Gothic cathedral) as well as rapidly expanding new residential quarters. At the close of World War II, Košice was the temporary seat of government. The building in which the Košice Government Programme was proclaimed is now a national cultural monument. The most important industrial branch in this city is metallurgical production. It has also engineering, textile and clothing factories. Prešov (pop. 60,552), the second largest centre in this region, has engineering, clothing and food industries. The town also includes remains of Baroque fortifications and many Renaissance and Baroque buildings. Spišská Nová Ves (pop. 25,571) is a former mining centre with Renaissance and Classicist buildings; the furniture, food, textile and engineering industries are found here today. Poprad (pop. 25,172), the starting-point for tours to the High Tatras, is also an industrial centre with railway wagon production, a food industry and woodworking plants. Humenné (pop. 21,684) has important new chemical works making "Kapron fabrics." The town has a Renaissance château that was reconstructed at a later date. Levoča has many fine architectural monuments, especially a Gothic church whose high altar, carved by Pavol of Levoča in the first half of the 16th century, is a national cultural monument. Interesting architecture is also found at Kežmarok, where there is a Gothic castle rebuilt during the Renaissance, and at Bardejov (including Bardejov Spa), which has well-preserved fortifications.

The geyser at Herľany near Košice is a popular tourist attraction in this region.

Unless otherwise stated, population figures refer to mid—1974.

Basic Indicators of National Economic Development in Czechoslovakia

Indicator	*Unit*	*1937*	*1948*	*1950*	*1955*	*1960*	*1965*	*1970*	*1973*
Total population	thousands	14 429	12 339	12 389	13 093	13 654	14 159	14 334	14 578
Men	„	7 017	5 990	6 017	6 378	6 662	6 911	6 966	7 100
Women	„	7 412	6 349	6 372	6 715	6 992	7 248	7 368	7 478
Natural increase per 1000 inhabitants		3,2	11,9	11,8	10,7	6,7	6,4	4,3	7,3
Number of persons working in the national economy (excl. apprentices)	thousands	.	5 545	5 577	5 956	6 063	6 477	7 033	7 237
Productive branches	„	.	4 842	4 831	5 070	5 053	5 170	5 500	5 637
Non-productive branches	„	.	703	746	886	1 010	1 307	1 533	1 600
Industry	„	.	1 640	1 674	1 942	2 263	2 480	2 670	2 799
Agriculture	„	.	2 239	2 058	1 933	1 468	1 262	1 183	1 049
Registered number of persons working in the socialist sector (excl. cooperative farms)	„	.	.	.	4 267	4 829	5 382	5 902	6 106
Monthly wages per person working in the socialist sector of the national economy (excl. cooperative farms)	Kčs	764	823	948	1 200	1 365	1 493	1 937	2 161
Index of real wages of workers and employees (1937 = 100)	%	100	.	120,0	131,1	163,5	173,8	208,0	233,3
Growth of social product (1948 = 100)	%	.	100	126	183	267	319	442	525
Growth of created national income (1937 = 100)	%	100	97	117	173	243	268	373	438
(1948 = 100)	%	103	100	121	178	251	277	386	453
Growth of created national income per head of the population (1937 = 100)		100	113	137	190	257	273	376	431
Growth of social productivity of labour (1948 = 100)	%	.	100	122	170	246	271	348	398
Growth of personal consumption per head of the population (1937 = 100)	%	100	97	116	134	176	196	252	287
Personal incomes, total 1,000 million Kčs	current prices	.	.	.	95,5	121,0	152,9	226,4	269,3
Personal expenditures, total 1,000 million Kčs	current prices	.		.	93,2	119,6	147,8	216,0	253,9

Indicator	*Unit*	*1937*	*1948*	*1950*	*1955*	*1960*	*1965*	*1970*	*1973*
Investments and supplies for the national economy	million Kčs prices as of Jan.1, 1967	.	12,2	19,2	30,4	56,6	62,6	88,5	111,0
Construction work	”	.	9,2	13,2	22,1	38,0	38,5	54,2	68,1
Machinery, equipment	”	.	3,0	6,0	8,2	18,6	24,1	34,3	42,9
Industry	”	.	5,7	8,6	10,4	22,7	26,8	33,6	41,8
Agriculture, forestry	”	.	0,5	1,5	4,3	9,6	8,7	9,4	12,9
Housing	”	.	2,5	3,2	7,3	8,6	9,2	15,8	17,9
Number of flats completed	thousands	53,6	21,7	38,2	48,8	73,8	77,8	112,1	118,6
Fixed assets of the national economy, total	1,000 million Kčs, 1967 prices	.	702,0	726,6	847,8	1021,1	1241,9	1499,4	1743,4
Productive branches	”	.	334,7	349,0	421,9	530,6	674,1	837,7	986,1
Non-productive branches	”	.	367,9	377,6	425,9	490,5	567,8	661,7	757,3
Index of industrial production (1937 = 100)	%	100	108	143	243	403	520	722	879
(1948 = 100)	%		100	132	224	382	480	665	811
Growth of industrial production in selected branches (1948 = 100)									
Electric power and heat production	%	.	100	124	206	360	504	718	867
Fuel industry, coal and oil products	%	.	100	112	159	248	315	403	453
Ferrous metallurgy	%	.	100	118	230	375	488	608	708
Engineering and metal-working	%	.	100	145	663	663	909	1414	1796
Chemicals, rubber and asbestos	%	.	100	136	282	577	958	1534	2075
Building materials	%	.	100	120	240	529	626	872	1033
Textiles	%	.	100	124	171	238	277	350	414
Clothing	%	.	100	144	203	310	383	499	576
Leather, footwear and fur	%	.	100	109	148	238	298	394	471
Number of persons working in industrial enterprises (excl. apprentices)	thousands	1483	1557	1665	1985	2335	2564	2721	2768
Average monthly wages of persons working in industrial enterprises	Kčs	804	764	916	1278	1436	1574	1971	2180
Growth of productivity of workers in industry (1948 = 100)	%	.	100	127	191	268	323	427	512
Growth of volume of work done by workers of building enterprises (1948 = 100)	%	.	100	152	244	431	491	718	922

Indicator	*Unit*	*1937*	*1948*	*1950*	*1955*	*1960*	*1965*	*1970*	*1973*
Average number of workers engaged in construction work in building enterprises,'	thousands	.	202,7	280,5	311,1	362,4	359,3	395,0	418,2
Average wages of workers engaged in construction work in building enterprises	Kčs	.	812	1 021	1 309	1 506	1 713	2 203	2 433
Growth of productivity of workers engaged in construction work in building enterprises (1948 = 100)	%	.	100	114	171	262	308	420	517
Gross agricultural production	mill. Kčs 1967 prices	54 896 1	40 084	47 321	50 324	54 645	53 013	67 143	75 323
Crop production	"	29 287 1)	22 982	23 883	26 668	27 632	23 319	30 441	34 479
Livestock production	"	25 609 1)	17 102	23 438	23 656	27 013	29 694	36 702	40 844
Growth of gross agricultural production (1936 = 100)	%	100 1)	73,0	86,2	91,7	99,5	96,6	122,3	137,2
Crop production	%	100 1)	78,5	81,5	91,1	94,4	79,6	103,9	117,7
Livestock production	%	100 1)	66,8	91,5	92,4	105,5	116,0	143,3	159,5
Growth of gross agricultural production per person permanently employed in agriculture (1936 = 100)	%	100	76,4	91,0	156,4	106,0	252,4	341,1	400,1
Number of persons permanently employed in agriculture (at the end of the year) excl. State Tractor Stations	thousands	3 298 2)	2 222	1894	1839	1357	1192	1132 3)	1017 3)
Farm land (at the end of the year)	thousand hectares	7 755	7 548	7506	7414	7327	7160	7093	7606
Hectare yields	quintals (metric)								
Wheat		17,1	16,4	18,9	20,4	23,3	24,2	29,5	37,8
Rye	"	16,0	15,5	18,3	18,9	20,8	19,8	20,7	30,8
Sugar beet	"	258,8	235,8	284,7	285,1	346,3	261,0	369,6	310,9
Potatoes	"	134,8	110,1	123,5	127,3	90,0	84,6	142,1	167,5
Number of farm animals (at the end of the year)									
Cattle	thousands	4 296	3 663	4 303	4 107	4 387	4 389	4 288	4 556
Milch cows	"	2 384	1 871	2 071	2 084	2 047	1 948	1 881	1 927
Pigs	"	3 144	3 242	3 802	5 285	5 962	5 544	5 530	6 266
Poultry	"	.	16 393	18206	23 367	28 157	27 752	39 187	41 232
Livestock production Meat production, total	tons live weight	629 228	440 399	796 355	767 879	929 540	1 155 712	1 233 941	1 412 815
Milk production	thousand hectolitres	47 408	25 043	31 732	34 152	37 147	38 058	46 498	52 669

1) Figures for 1936   2) Average figure for 1934—1938

3) Figure at the beginning of the year

Indicator	*Unit*	*1937*	*1948*	*1950*	*1955*	*1960*	*1965*	*1970*	*1973*
Egg production	millions	1 879	1 109	1 607	1 734	2 267	3 007	3 733	4 254
Number of tractors in agriculture (in 15 H. P. units)		3 314	.	.	40 814	94 297	179 486	213 016	250 696
Consumption of artificial lertilizers per hectare of farm fand	kg, pure nutrients	13,1	18,4	28,2	46,7	68,3	126,1	182,4	202,3
Wood production, total	thousand cu. m., without bark	10 544	10 226	12 412	14 902	12 565	14 760	15 363	15 512
Bus lines, Number		.	1 615	2 042	3 054	4 219	4 920	5 631	5 982
Length	km.	8 129	44 047	53 782	81 582	119 268	146 201	210 877	234 165
Freight carried by public transport Railways	thousand tons	70 059	74 432	96 013	140 222	194 077	218 527	236 876	260 569
Road transport	”	13 616 1)	24 829 1)	11 732	75 357	131 562	195 578	226 011	279 479
Number of passengers carried by public transport Railways	millions	265	415	442	524	581	569	494	
Road transport	millions	84	293	400	758	1 174	1 636	1 717	1 825
Number of telephones	thousands	213	386	451	662	1 016	1 492	2 003	2 354
Number of broadcast receiving licences Radios	thousands	1 034	2 108	2 421	2 839	3 104	3 100	3 174	3 115
Television	”	—	—	—	32	795	2 113	3 091	4 404
Retail trade turnover	1,000 million Kčs, cur-	.	.	49,8	75,3	94,5	111,3	163,2	190,9
Foodstuffs	rent prices	.	.	.	45,0	52,1	63,4	82,1	93,3
Industrial articles	”	.	.	.	30,3	42,4	48,4	81,1	97,6
Food consumption per head of the population Meat	kg	34,0	28,9	44,8	44,8	56,8	61,7	71,9	77,3
Milk	litres	159,1	125,2	156,1	145,3	145,3	106,5	119,2	126,6
Butter	kg	4,9	2,8	4,5	5,0	6,1	6,8	7,4	7,3
Eggs	pieces	138	114	158	164	179	228	277	291
Flour	kg	62,6	73,5	96,7	91,6	84,8	95,0	84,7	83,8
Sugar	kg	23,2	22,3	26,2	33,7	36,3	37,5	37,7	36,7
Foreign trade turnover, total	million Kčs, cif border.		10 328	10 211	10 046	26 964	38 599	53 910	71 127
Trade with socialist countries	of supplying State	.	4 098	5 677	11 264	19 357	28 272	37 750	49 340
Imports, total	”	.	4 906	4 603	7 579	13 072	19 242	26 605	35 805
Imports from socialist countries	”	.	1 949	2 599	5 433	9 316	14 121	18 462	24 386

Indicator	*Unit*	*1937*	*1948*	*1950*	*1955*	*1960*	*1965*	*1970*	*1973*
Exports, total	"	.	5 422	5 608	8 467	13 892	19 357	27 305	35 322
Exports to socialist countries	"	.	2 149	3 078	5 831	10 041	14 151	19 288	24 954
Enrolment in education									
Nursery schools	children	104 615	205 416	256 306	236 254	285 863	330 084	377 593	414 433
Nine-year elementary schools	thousand pupils	2 164	1 523	1 686	1 847	2 153	2 221	1 966	1 890
Secondary general education schools and secondary schools for working people	persons	46 599	70 440	50 471	77 493	73 778	112 928	110 038	127 451
Secondary vocational and vocational schools (incl. schools for working people)	"	75 522	92 610	94 054	180 815	238 201	297 654	286 407	277 945
Higher schools	"	27 068	62 893	45 241	76 171	94 040	144 990	131 099	135 874
Theatre attendance	thousands	5 000	9 150	9 453	12 749	12 762	10 418	9 486	9 573
Cinema attendance	millions	84,4	154,3	125,3	163,6	176,5	128,4	114,8	89,3
Film production, total		266	128	222	631	917	912	1 257	1 496
Published books	titles	6 490	6 640	3 797	5 923	6 893	6 503	6 235	6 598
Public libraries			14 552	14 474		13 836		11 245	10 897
Public library readers	thousands	930	1 060	1 134	1 613	1 689	1 812	1 757	2 001
Inhabitants per doctor		1 236	1 158	991	718	571	487	432	393
Hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants		5,8	5,8	6,2	11,8	7,5	12,5	8,0	7,9
Places in crêches		1286	6050	22 245	35 024	41 307	63 332	65 992	67 657
Health insurance benefits, sickness benefits and mother-and-child benefits	million Kčs	408	1570	2 599	5 331	7 682	9 105	15 972	18 865
Pensions	thousands	1238	1305	1 712	1 945	2 298	2 694	3 319	3 501
Pension benefits	million Kčs	4840	3584	5 262	6 886	11 352	15 210	24 747	29 507

Highest peak:
Mt. Gerlach, 2,655 m

Lowest point:
Bodrog near Streda nad Bodrogom, 94 m

Deepest abyss:
Hranice Abyss, 244 m

Longest river on Czechoslovak territory:
The Vltava, 433 km

River with the highest flow-rates:
The Danube, average flow-rate near Štúrovo 2,315 cu.m/sec

Largest lake:
The Black Lake (Šumava Mountains), 18.4 hectares

Largest pond:
Rožmberk Pond, 489 hectares

Largest dam-lake:
Lipno Lake, 4,870 hectares

Highest dam:
Orlík Dam, 82 m

Highest locality:
Štrbské Pleso, 1,360 m

Lowest locality:
Nová Vieska near Bodrog, 98 m

Highest point of habitation:
Observatory on Peak Lomnický Štít, 2,632 m

Shortest distance from the sea:
Šluknov, 326 km from the Baltic (Bay of Szczecin)

Highest annual mean temperature:
Štúrovo, 10.4°C

Lowest annual mean temperature:
Mt. Gerlach, minus 6°C

Highest temperature recorded in the shade:
38 °C in 1957, in various places of southern Slovakia

Lowest temperature recorded:
Minus 42 °C in 1929, at České Budějovice

Highest annual mean precipitation:
2130 mm, Zbojnická chata, High Tatras,

Highest daily precipitation:
345 mm — August 29,1897 at Nová Louka, Jizera Mountains

Lowest annual mean precipitation:
Žatec district, below 450 mm,

Warmest mineral spring:
Vřídlo at Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) 72 °C

Deepest bore:
At Jarošov near Uherské Hradiště, 4,601 m

Deepest pit:
S-pit of the IV-UZ mine at Příbram, 1,681 m, permanent temperature 31°C

Highest structure:
The Morava TV-transmitter tower near Blansko, 394 m

Longest tunnel:
On the Banská Bystrica-Diviaky railway line, 4,698 m

Highest railway station:
Štrbské Pleso, 1,325 m

Highest cableway:
On Peak Lomnický štít, 2,632 m a.s.l.

Longest bridge:
Ždákov Bridge over the river Vltava, 541 m

Highest bridge:
Over the river Vltava near Červená, 67,4 m

Largest ocean-going ship:
Vítkovice — 24.353,75 BRT, load capacity 44,830 tons

Highest air-port:
Poprad, High Tatra Mountains, 710 m

Highest chimney:
At the Tušimice power-plant, 300 m

PHOTOS

1 Gustáv Husák and Ludvík Svoboda with L. I. Brezhnev at Prague Castle
2 A rally in the Old Town Square in Prague
3 Štrbské Pleso in the High Tatras
4 Bohemian Highlands
5 A modern housing estate
6 Prague in winter
7 The Presidential standard
8 The Czechoslovak flag
9 Coat-of-arms of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
10 Countryside at the foot of the Giant Mountains
11 Prague celebrates the anniversary of Czechoslovakia's liberation by the Soviet Army
12 Sailboats on the Vltava at Vyšehrad Rock
13 Křivoklát Castle
14 Konopiště Château
15 Disused medieval silver mine Osel (70 m deep) at Kutná Hora
16 Pravčice Gate in the rock formations at Hřensko, North Bohemia
17 The annual fishing-out of Svět, one of the largest ponds in south Bohemia, near Třeboň
18 Zvíkov Castle at the confluence of the Otava and Vltava rivers
19 An old teamster's house and smithy in the Wallachian region of Moravia
20 Folk architecture at Čičmany, central Slovakia
21 The Greater Fatra
22 A winter scene
23 The river Kamenice meanders through deep sandstone gullies
24 Transmitter on Ještěd Hill, North Bohemia
25 Grandmother's Valley at the foot of the Giant Mountains
26 The Rock Gate in the Belan Tatras
27 Poprad Lake in the High Tatras
28 Charter of Prague's Charles University
29 Charles IV (wall-portrait in Karlštejn Castle)
30 Statue of Jan (John) Hus in Prague's Carolinum
31 Jan Jessenius
32 Jan Amos Komenský (Comenius)
33 Jan Evangelista Purkyně
34 Jan Kollár
35 Ľudovít Štúr
36 Mikoláš Aleš
37 Jan Neruda
38 Leoš Janáček
39 The Dukla Memorial

40 Soviet soldiers in Czechoslovakia in May 1945
41 Antonín Zápotocký, first Chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions and Czechoslovakia's second working-class President
42 Klement Gottwald, first working-class President of Czechoslovakia
43 General Ludvík Svoboda
44 Gustáv Husák, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
45 Memorial to the victims of the Lidice tragedy
46 Common grave of the men executed at Lidice on June 10, 1942
47 National Cemetery at Terezín (Theresienstadt), with the Small Fortress in the background
48 Žďákov Bridge, South Bohemia
49 The Orava Dam, North Slovakia
50 Part of a new bridge spanning the Danube in Bratislava
51 A shopping centre in a new housing estate
52 The Prague Metro
53 Construction of the Metro underground system in Prague
54 New housing construction
55 V. I. Lenin Statue in Prague
56 New Czechoslovak Television building in Prague
57 The L-39 two-seat jet trainer
58 Construction of the long-distance natural gas pipeline
59 Final welding on the "Friendship" oil pipeline
60 An excavator at the Maxim Gorki open-cast coalmine in northern Bohemia
61 River-ships built in the Komárno shipyards
62 Assembly of equipment for the pulp and paper industry
63 A prefabricated building elements factory in Poprad, Slovakia
64 Testing the weld on a pressure vessel for a nuclear reactor
65 Steel plant in the New Klement Gottwald Works in Ostrava
66 Steel plant in the Great October Revolution Works at Třinec, North Moravia
67 A stainless-steel stirrer for a synthetic rubber polymerizing plant (volume 20 cu.m.)
68 A 200-megawatt turbine made in the Škoda Works, V. I. Lenin Plant, in Plzeň
69 New mirror-glass production equipment at Sklo Union Teplice, North Bohemia
70 Production of diamond-point grinding wheel trueing burrs (an award-winning product at the International Trade Fairs in Leipzig and Brno)
71 Jacquard looms in the Stap works at Vilémov
72 Manufacture of musical instruments in the Amati workshop at Kraslice, West Bohemia
73 A modern malt plant at Hurbanovo, West Slovakia

74 Testing the largest Czechoslovak cooling container, made at the Orličan Works, Choceň (capacity 22 cu. m.)
75 The largest canned food plant in Czechoslovakia nearing completion in Nové Zámky, Slovakia
76 The Prague-based control centre of the International Energy System PEACE, linking the power grids of the European member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
77 Calf-rearing in sterilized surroundings
78 Cascade coops made by the Czechoslovak firm Agrometal, in the Mydlářka poultry farm
79 Fertilizer spreading by aircraft
80 Eggs on conveyor to automatic grader
81 Sugar-beet harvest
82 Mechanized hop-picking
83 Sugar-refinery, Prosenice
84 Harvest
85 Late work at harvest time
86 Harvest
87 Container train at Horní Moštěnice, Moravia
88 Transport of two rings from the Klement Gottwald Engineering Works in Vítkovice to Gdańsk, Poland
89 Shipping
90 Re-loading ramp at Čierná nad Tisou on the Czechoslovak-Soviet border
91 Metal-testing equipment at the laboratory of the Institute of Physical Metallurgy, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences
92 Thickness gauge for non-magnetic materials, developed in the Institute of Plasma Physics, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences
93 Ground station for satellite communication control
94 Nobel Prize winner Jaroslav Heyrovský
95 Atomic reactor in the Nuclear Research Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Řež near Prague
96 Balneological centre „Balnea Grand" at Piešťany Spa
97—98 Hemodialyzer centre (artificial kidney)
99 Children's hospital at Prague-Motol
100 Hospital at Prague-Krč: operating room with an observation dome permitting attendance at operations without sterility precautions
101 Tooth transplant in Prague's clinic of children's stomatology, the first specialized institution of this type in Europe
102 Examination of the brain by means of a computer-controlled scintillation camera
103 Poděbrady Spa: treatment centre for children suffering from heart diseases and rheumatism
104 Pensioners' Home at Horní Bříza, West Bohemia
105 Children from an experimental crèche at České Budějovice
106 Main building of the renovated Charles University complex
107 Students from the Agricultural College doing field work

108 Practical training at an institution of higher learning
109 Apprentice centre of the Crystalex enterprise at Nový Bor, North Bohemia
110 Faculty of Engineering of the Slovak College of Technology in Bratislava; in the forefront — the Aula Maxima
111 Nursery school in Bratislava-Karlova Ves; the Kútiky housing estate in the background
112 Language class in a nine-year school in Prague 6
113 Rotunda on Říp Hill (built in 1126)
114 Early Gothic three-nave basilica at Třebíč (built around 1240)
115 Archaeological work at Prague Castle
116 Gold jewellery set with precious stones (late 9th and early 10th century)
117 Restoration work on the Pavel Mělnický Hymnal (1530)
118 Karlštejn Castle
119 Work by an unknown 14th century painter from Vyšší Brod
120 Work by Master Theodoricus (second half of the 14th century)
121 Strečno Castle
122 Litomyšl Château
123 The Philosophy Room in Prague's Museum of National Literature
124 The Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Colonnade in Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad)
125 Hand-painted majolica jug (Western Slovakia)
126 Ceramic flower pot (made at Losiny, North Moravia, about 1850)
127 Detail of an apron, part of folk costume (Kyjov district, Moravia, about 1900)
128 South Bohemian folk architecture
129 "Wind", by Antonín Slavíček (from the collection of the District Art Gallery at Roudnice, Central Bohemia)
130 "Shepherd's Dream" by Ľudovít Fulla
131 The Lesser Fatra
132 Horušice Pond in South Bohemia
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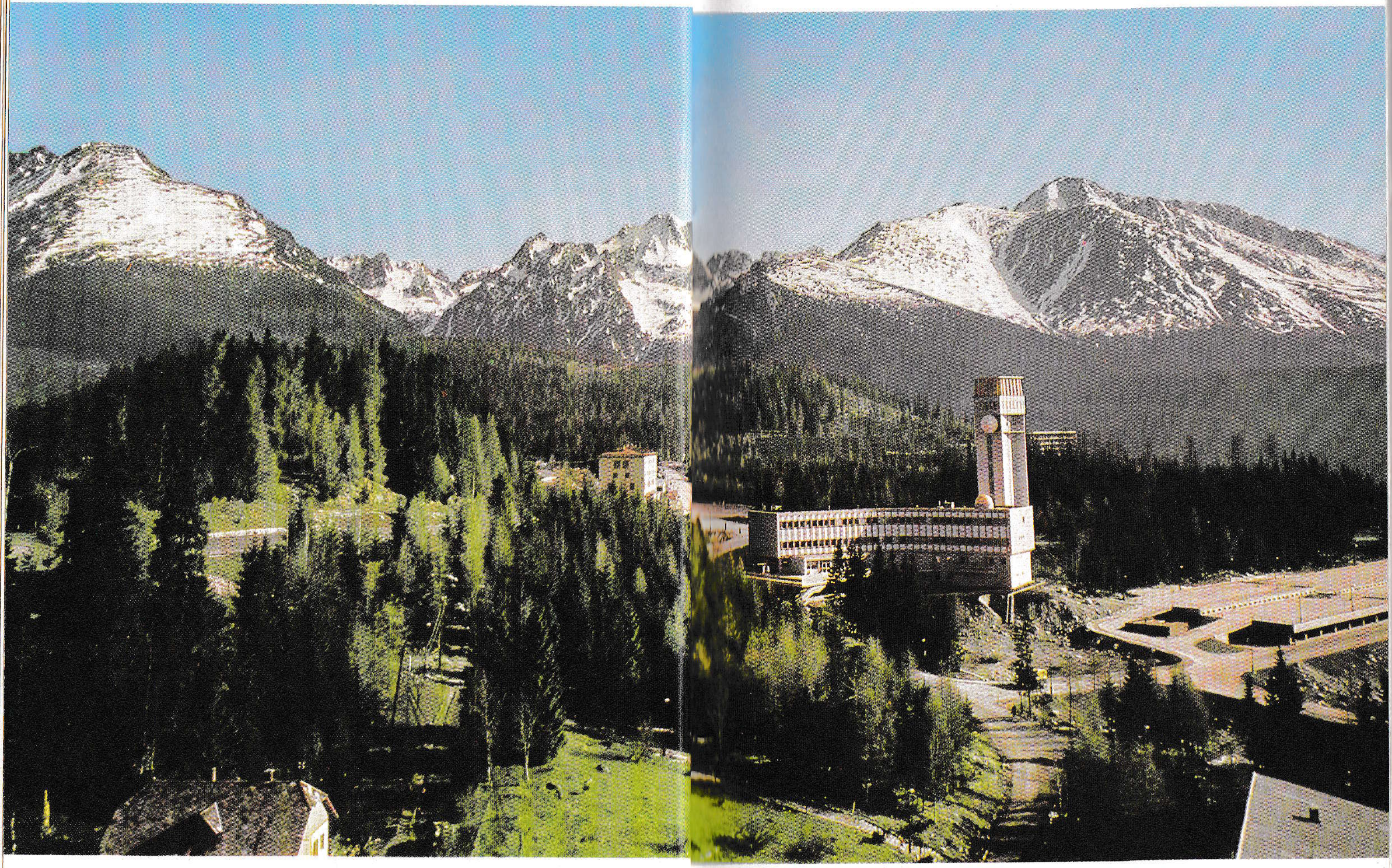

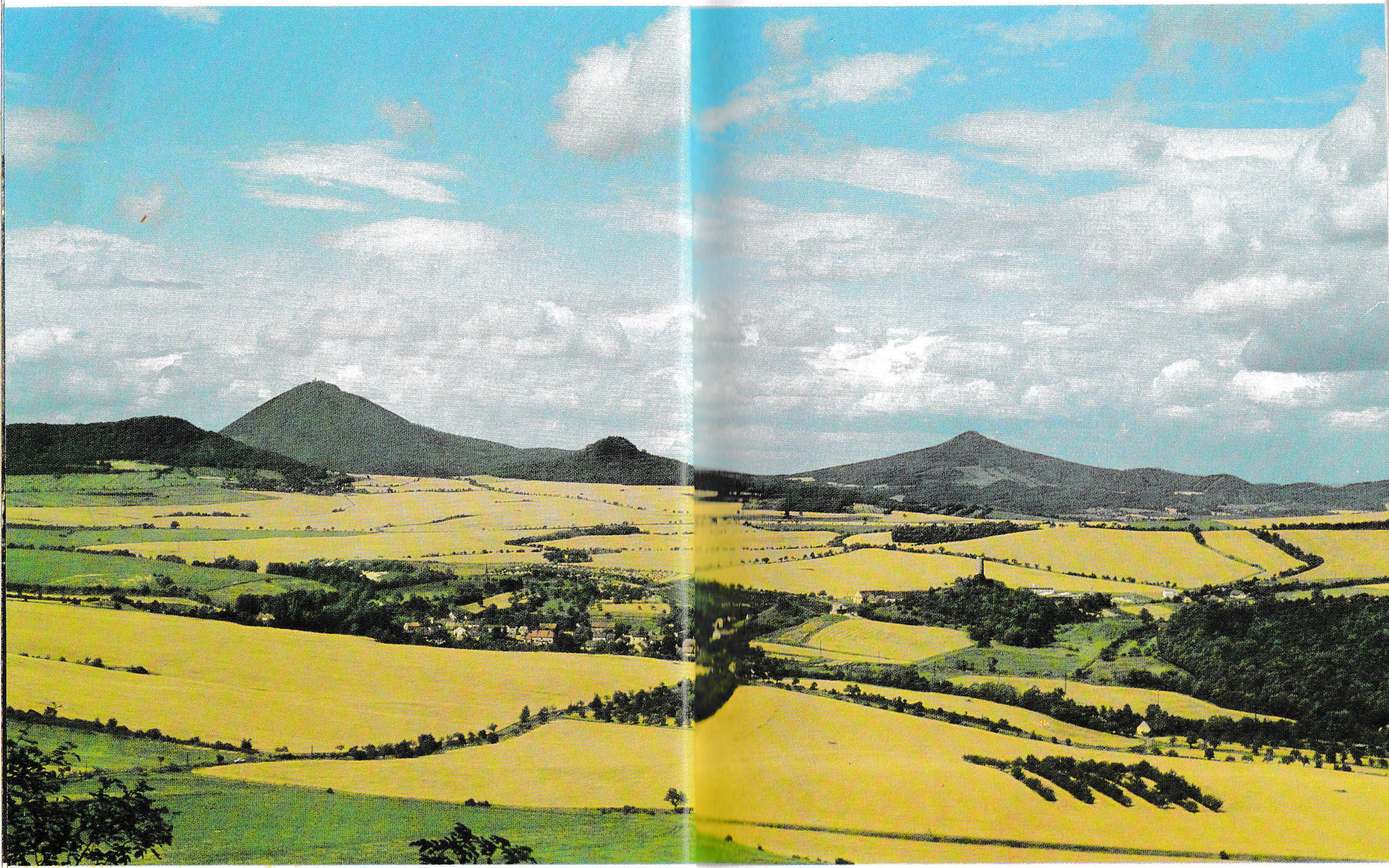

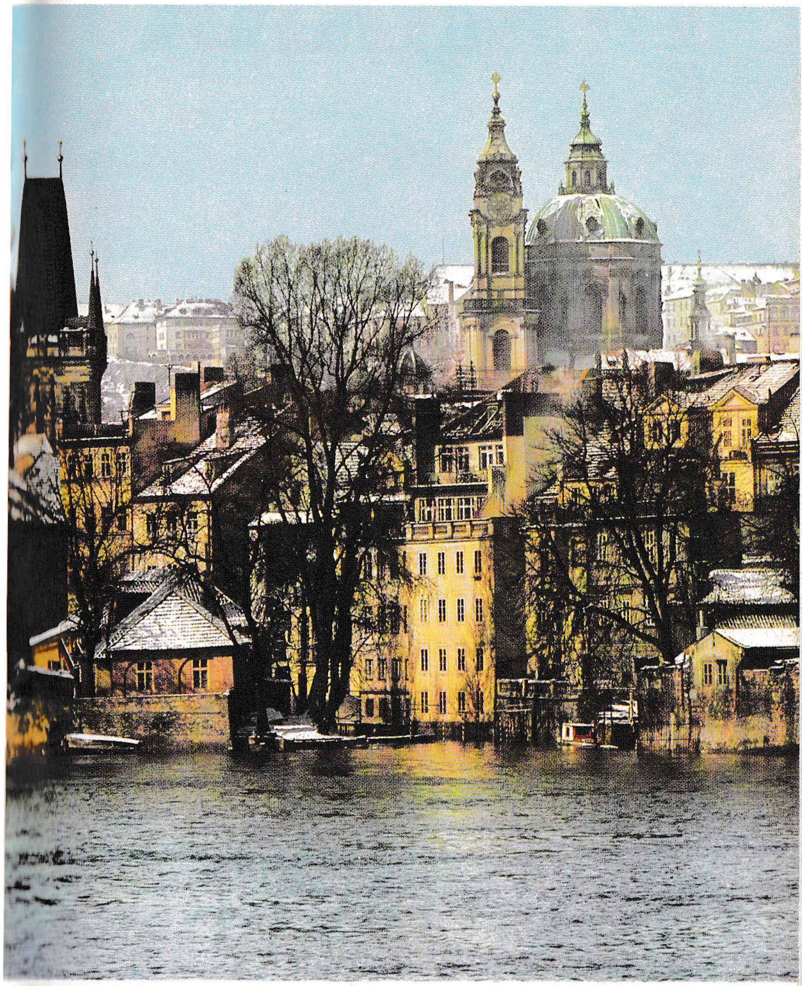

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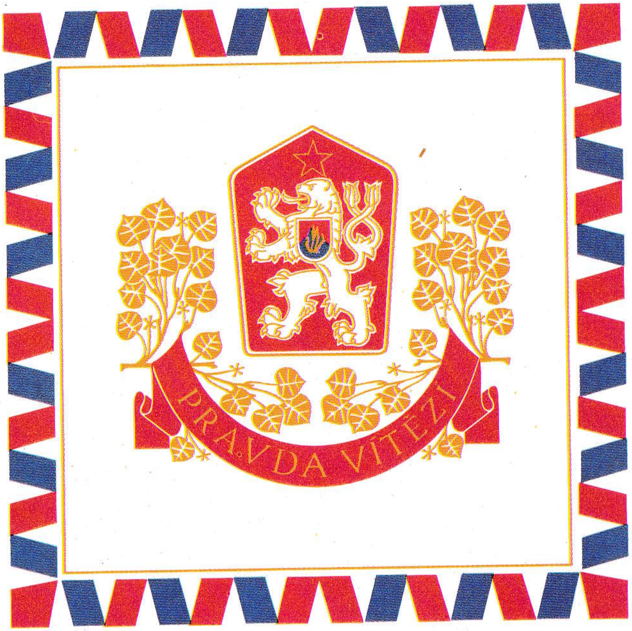

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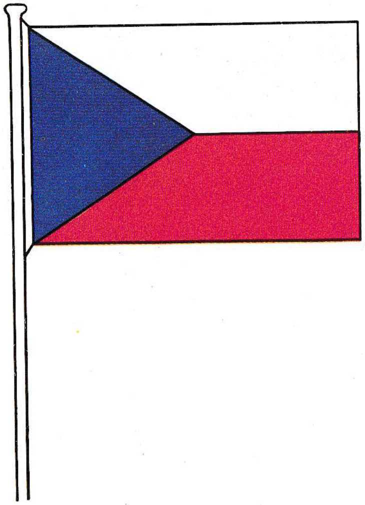

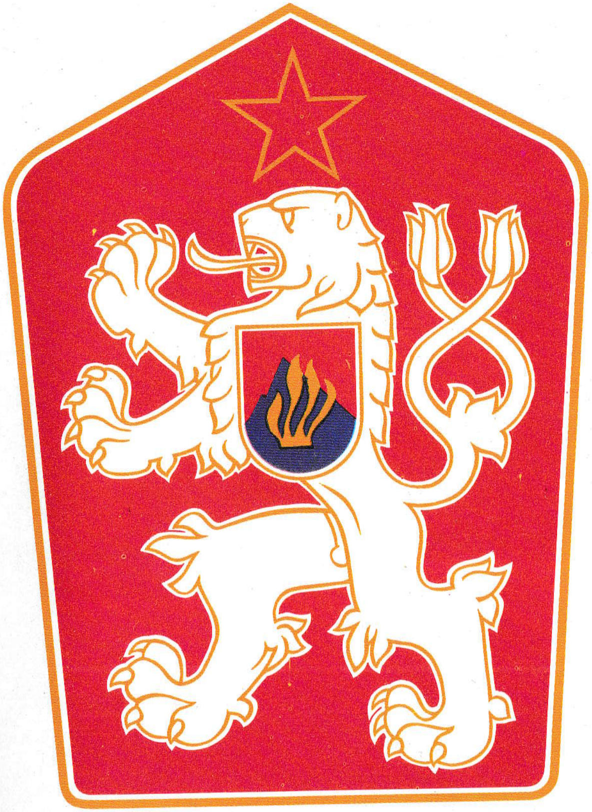

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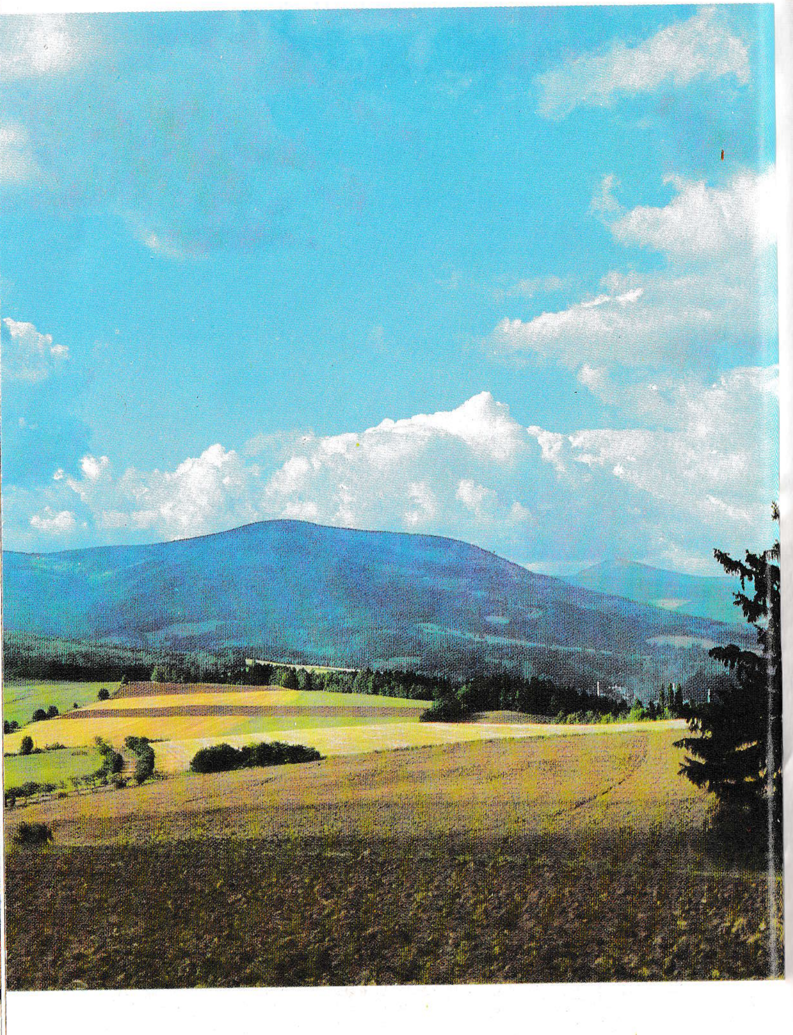

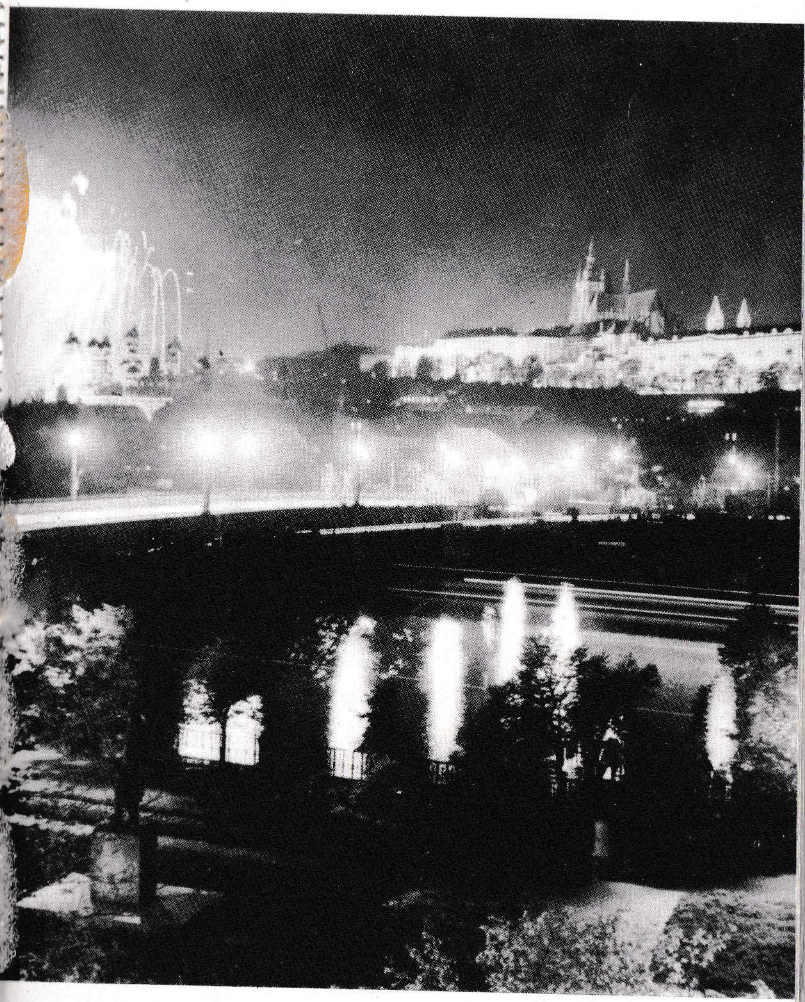

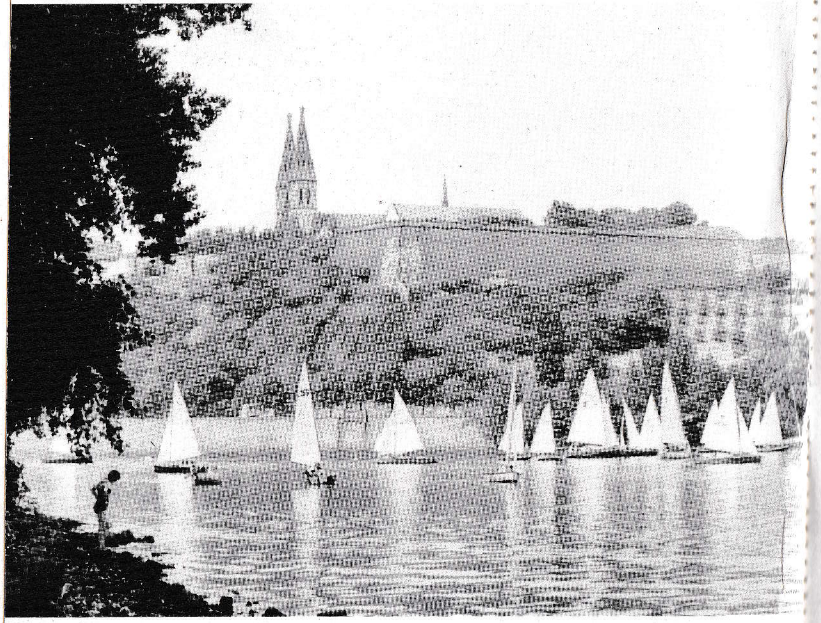

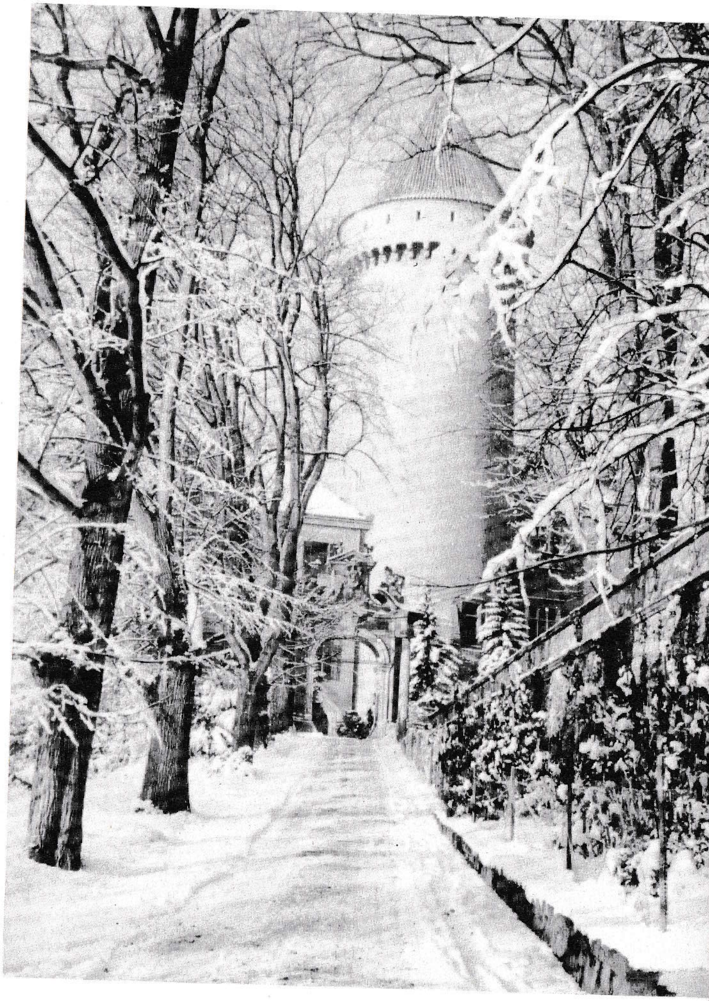

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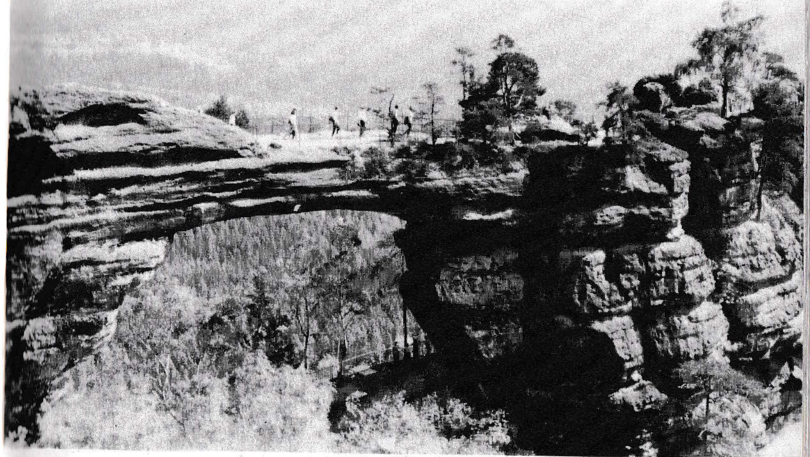

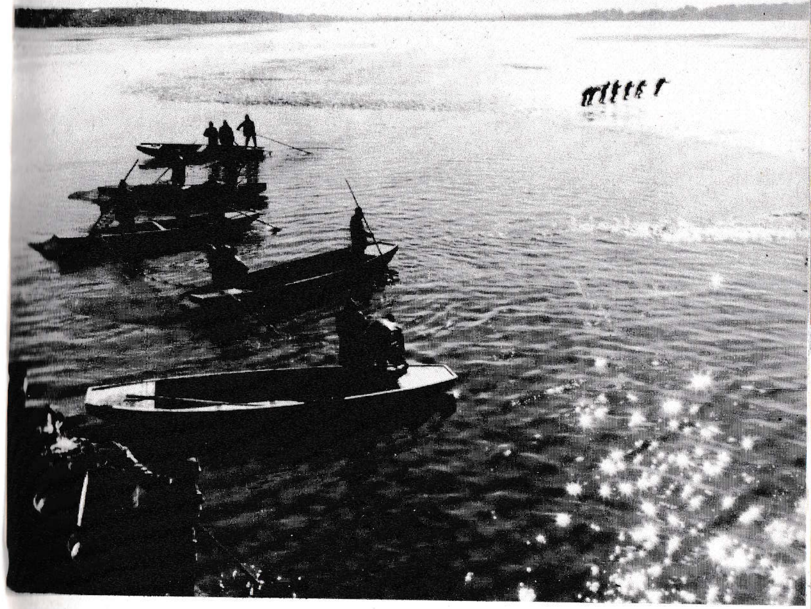

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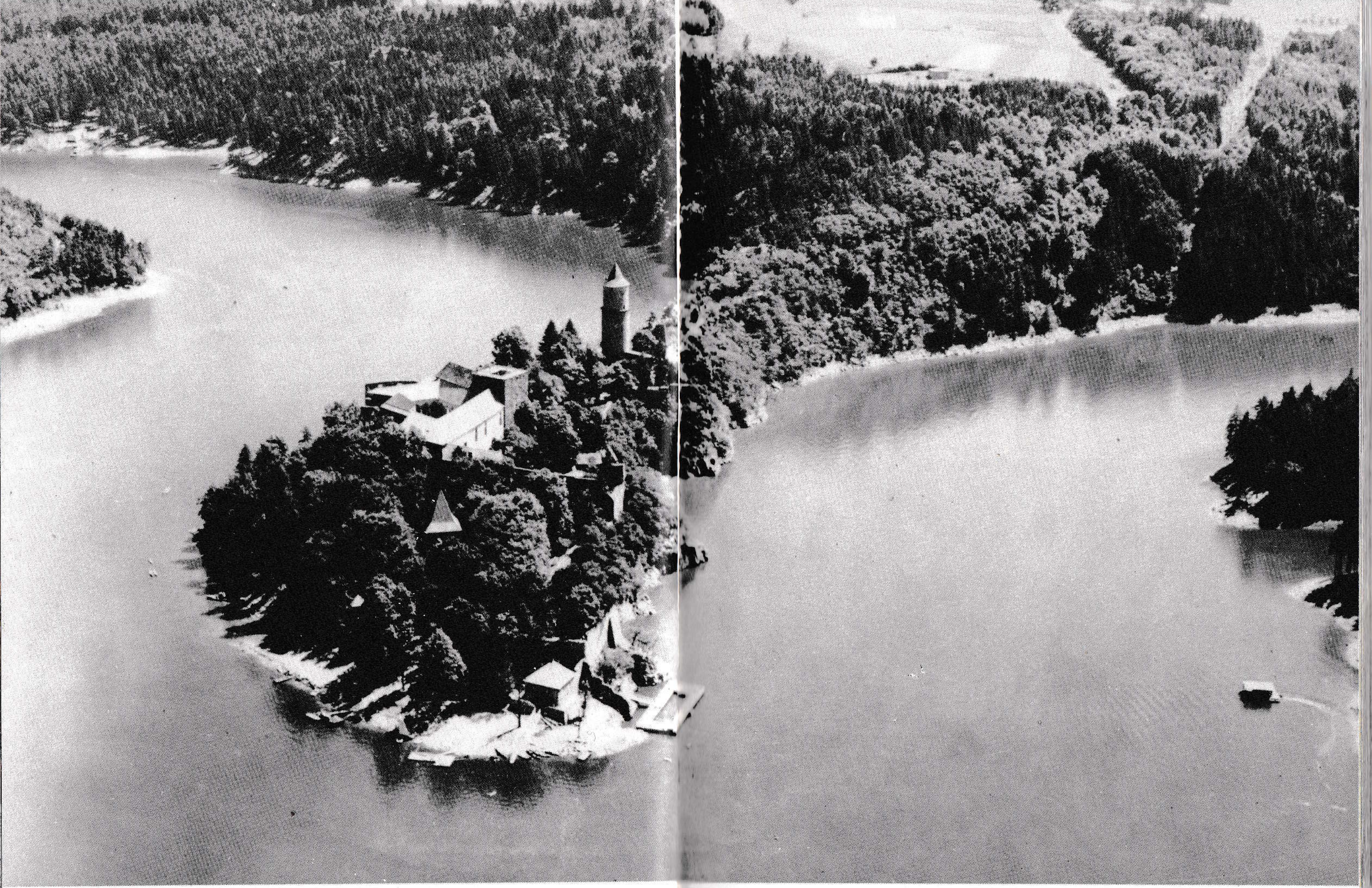

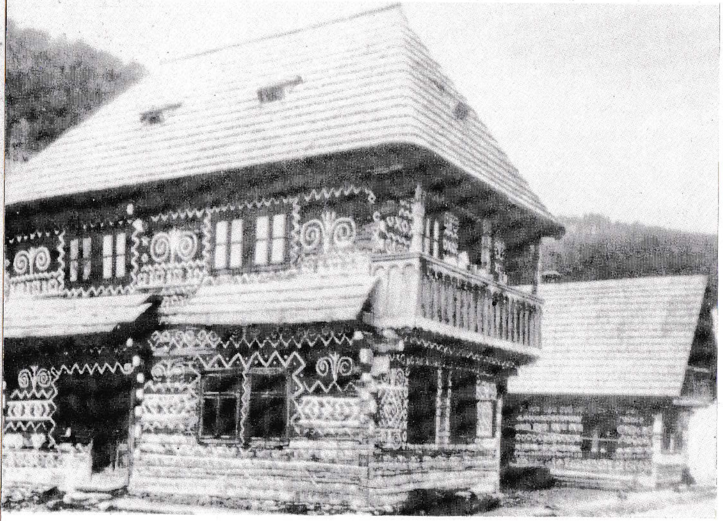

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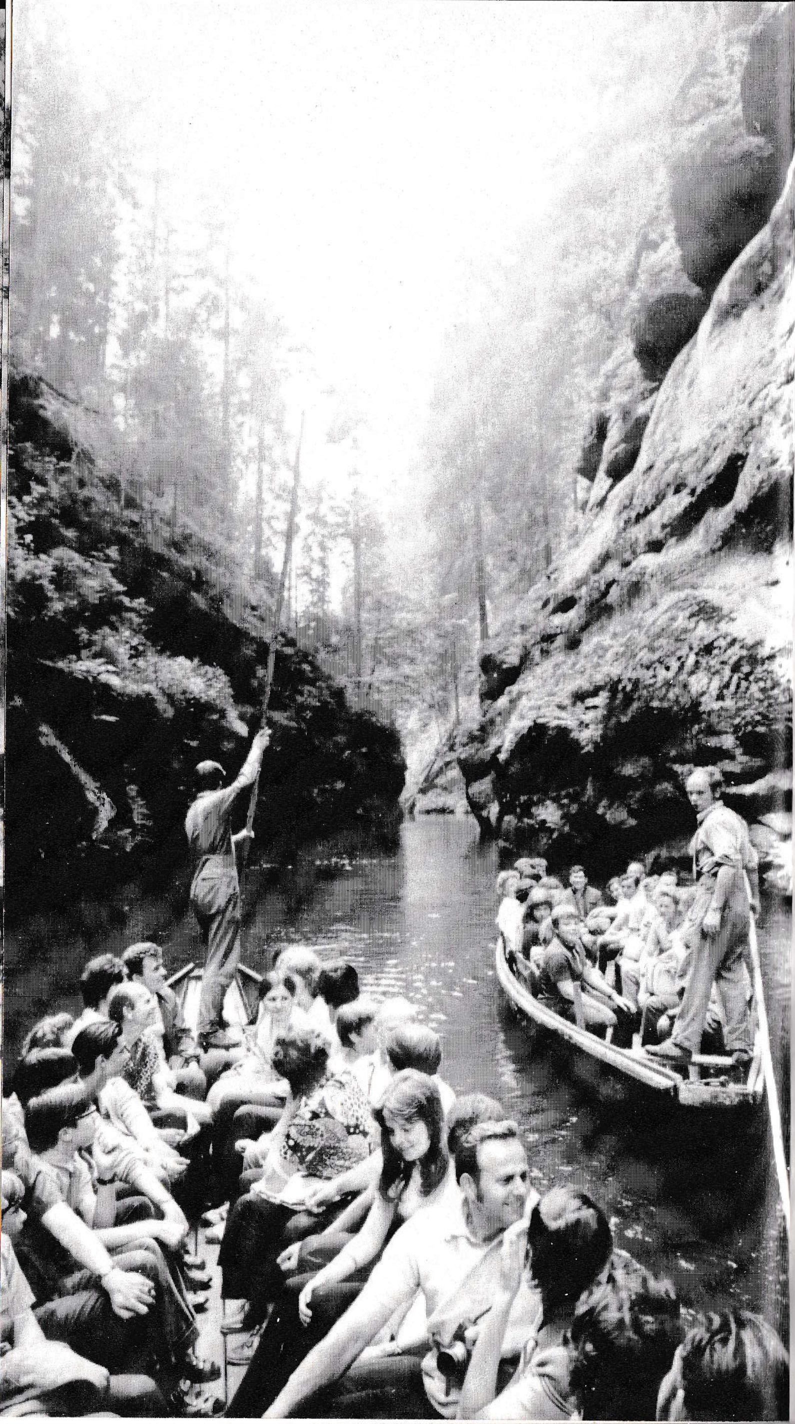

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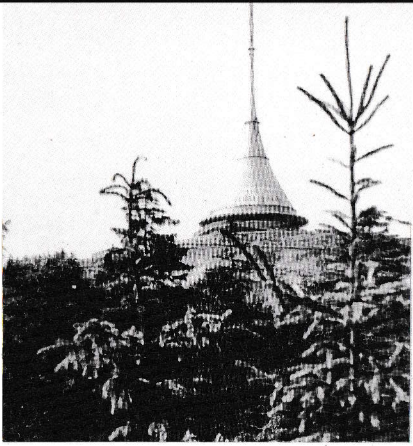

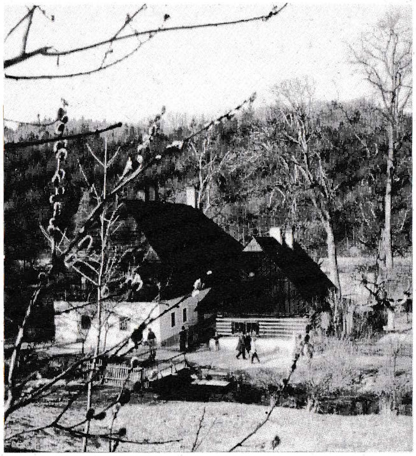

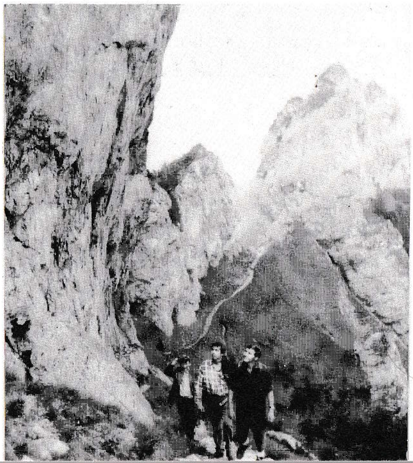

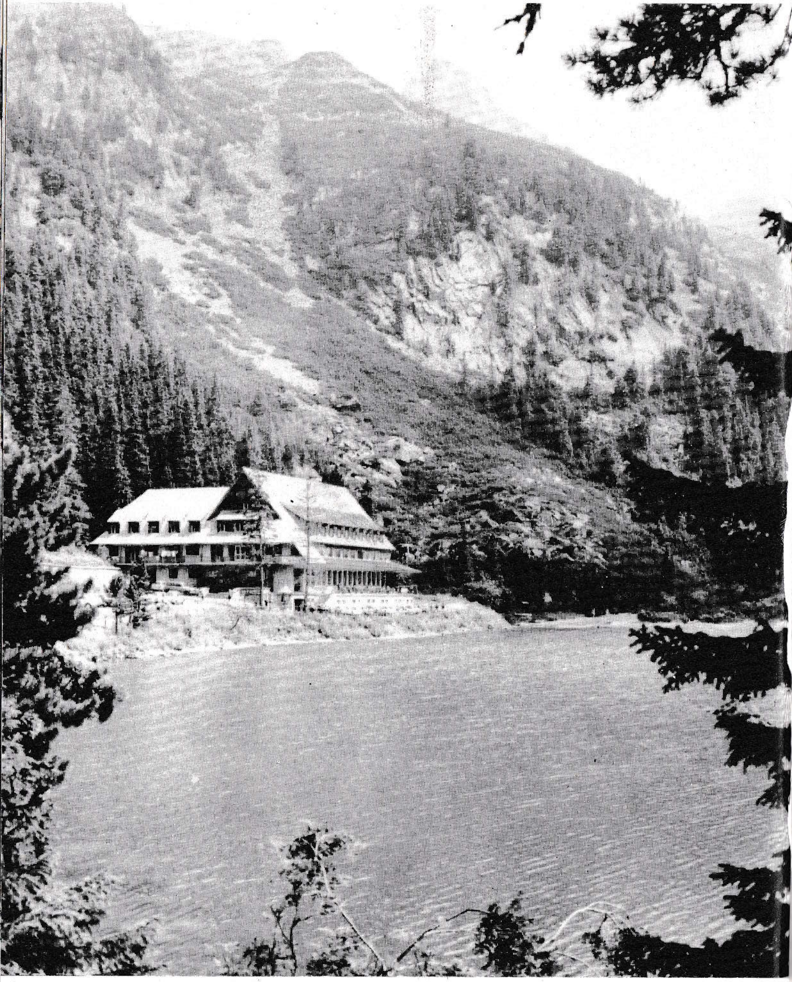

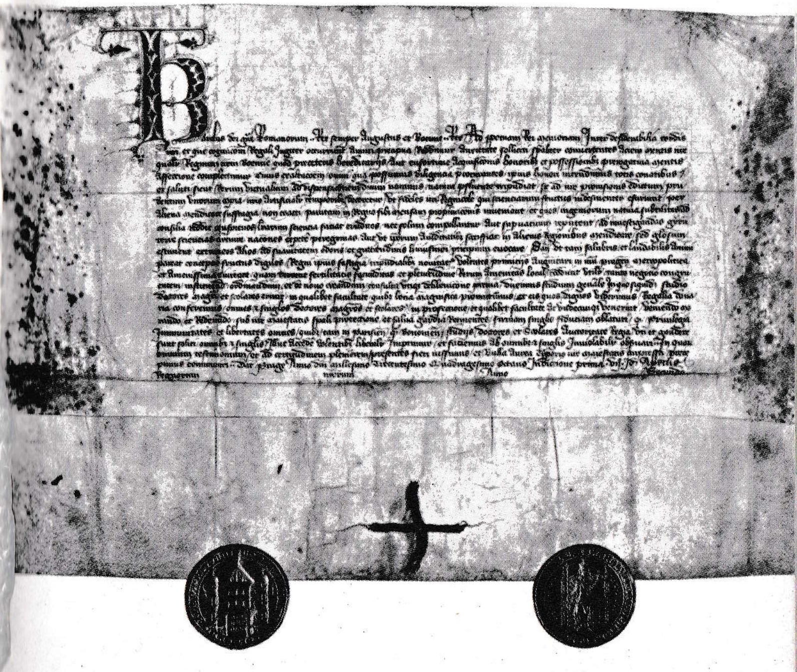

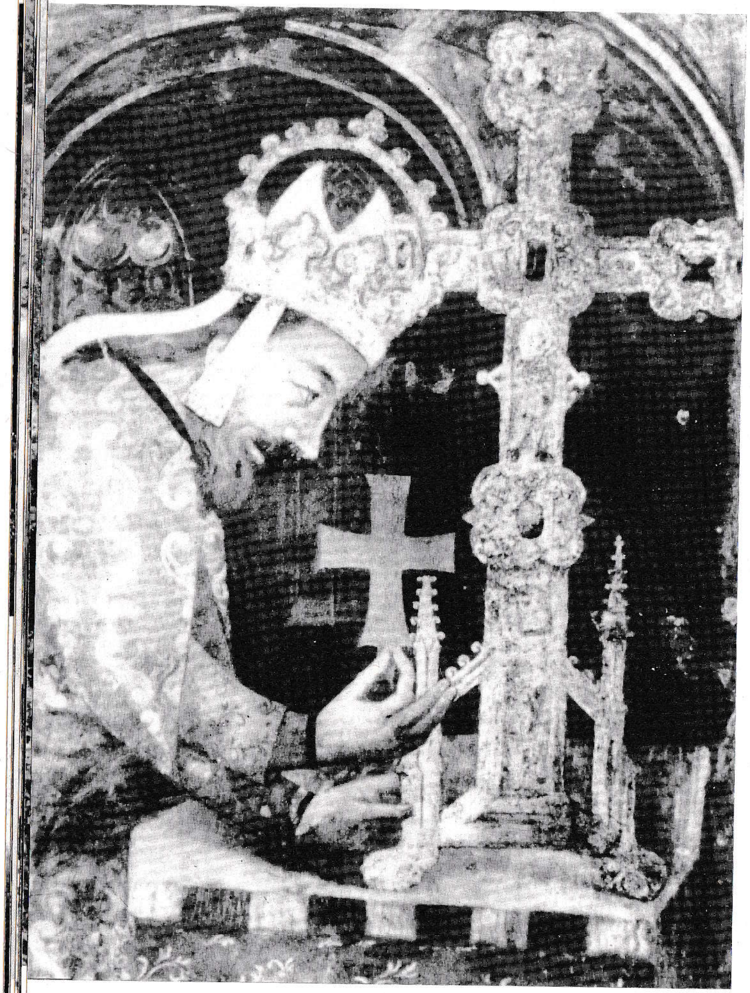

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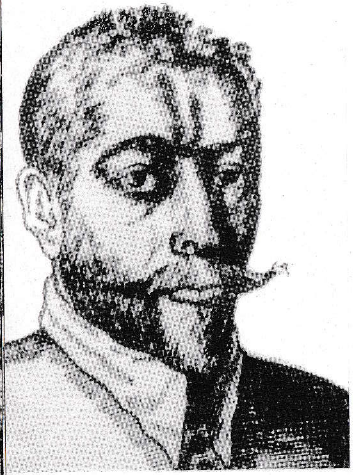
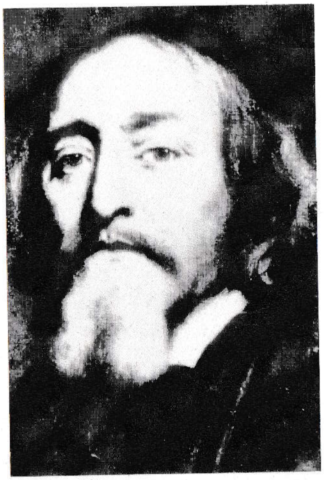
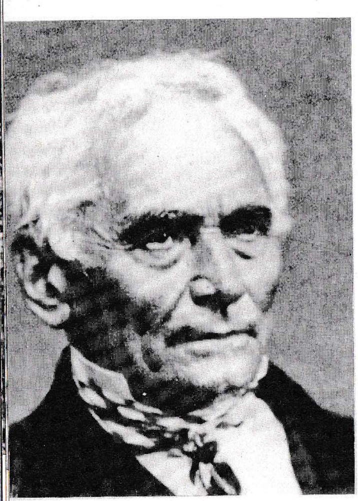
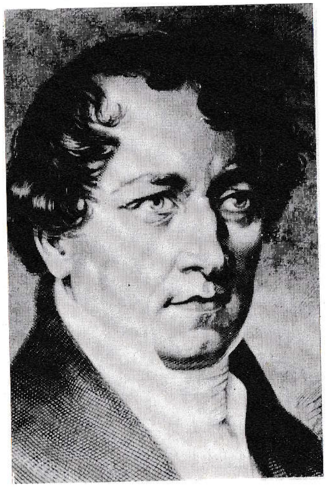

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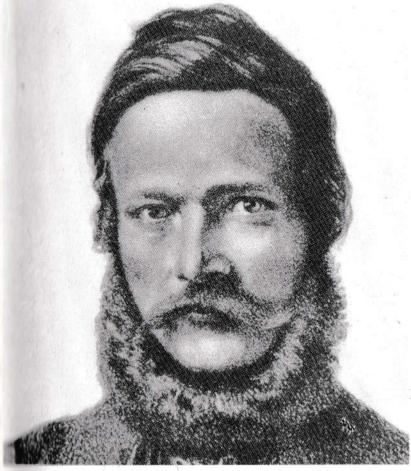
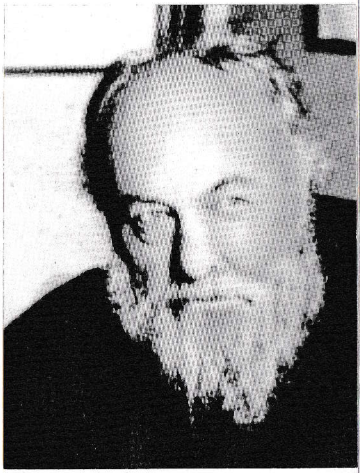

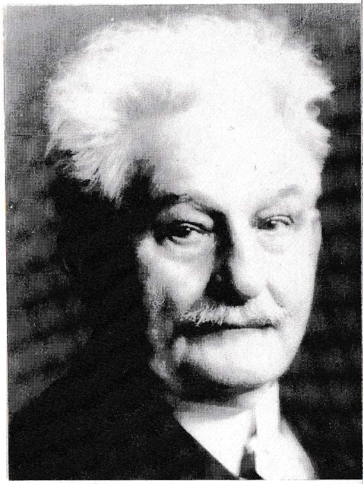

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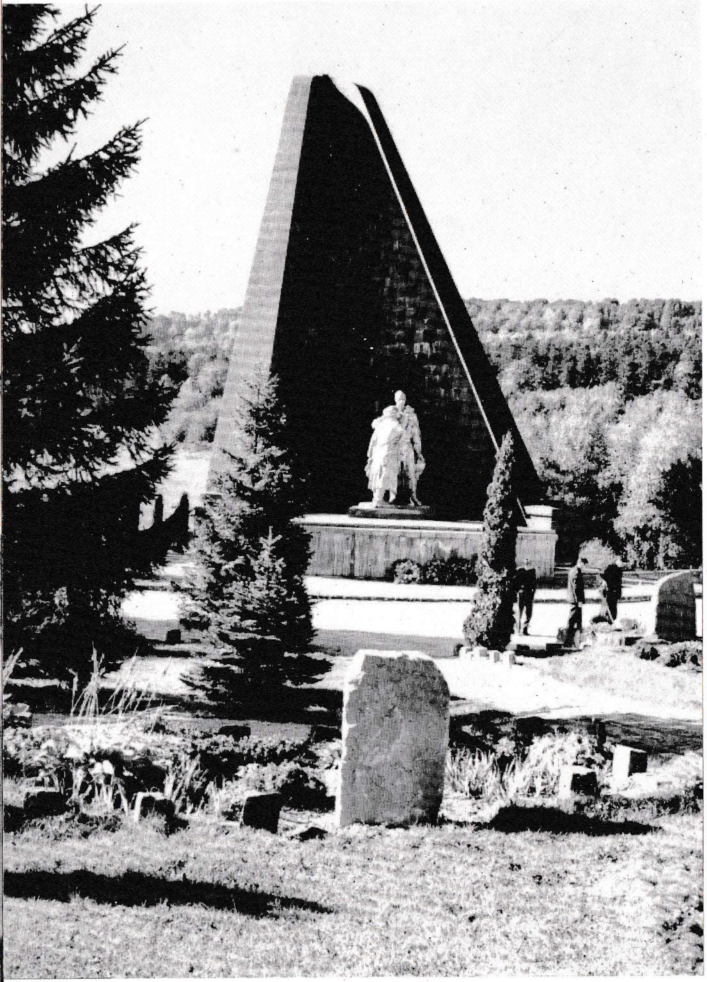

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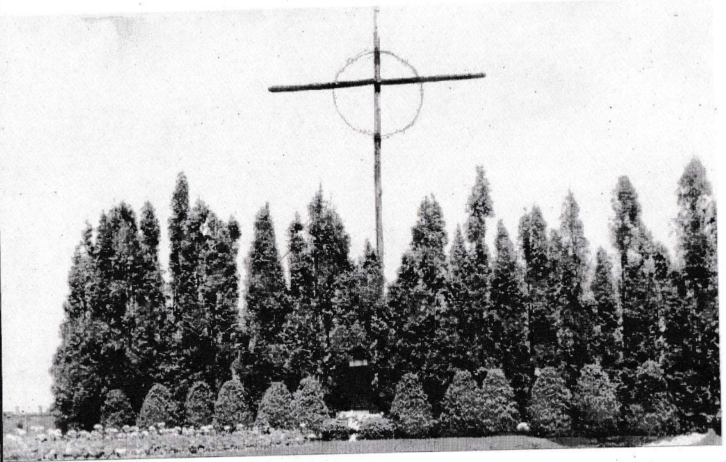

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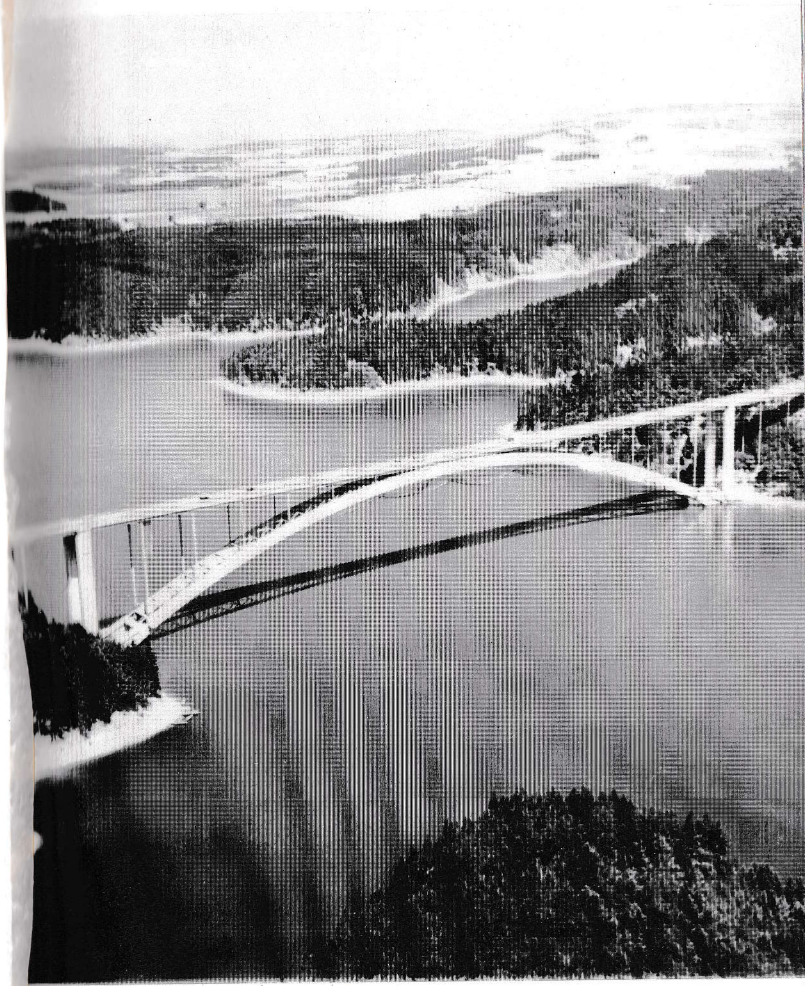

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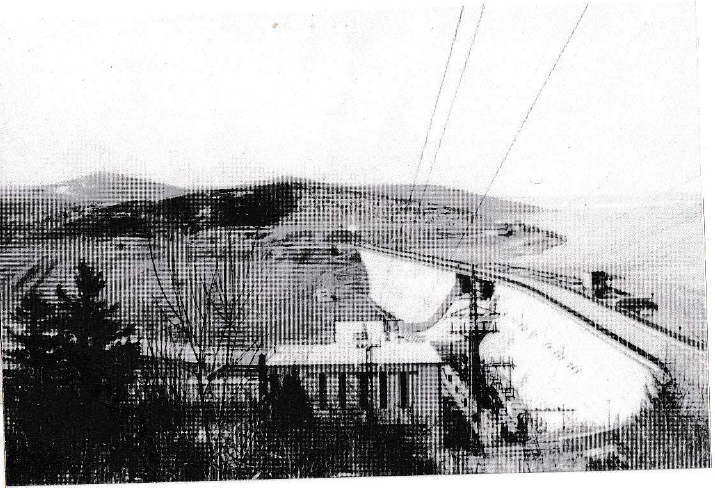

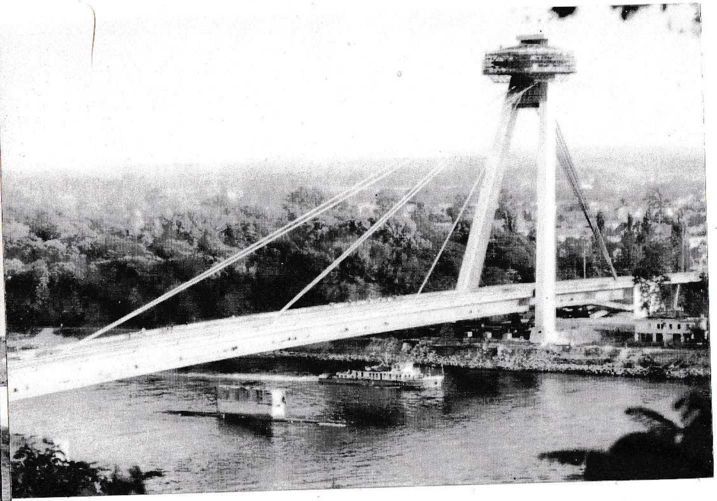

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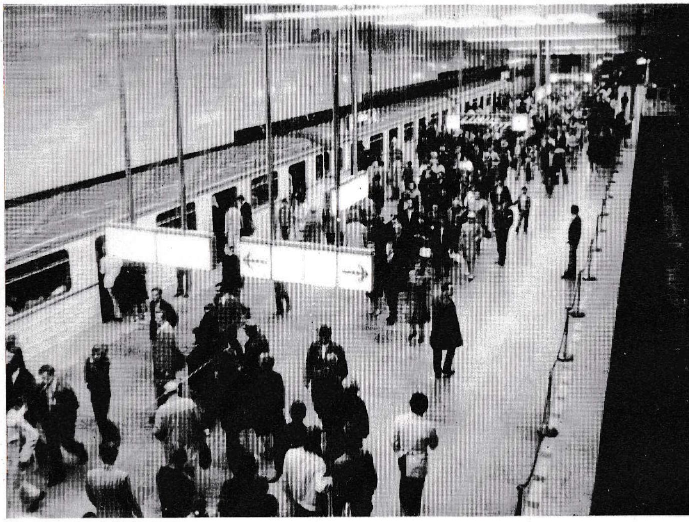

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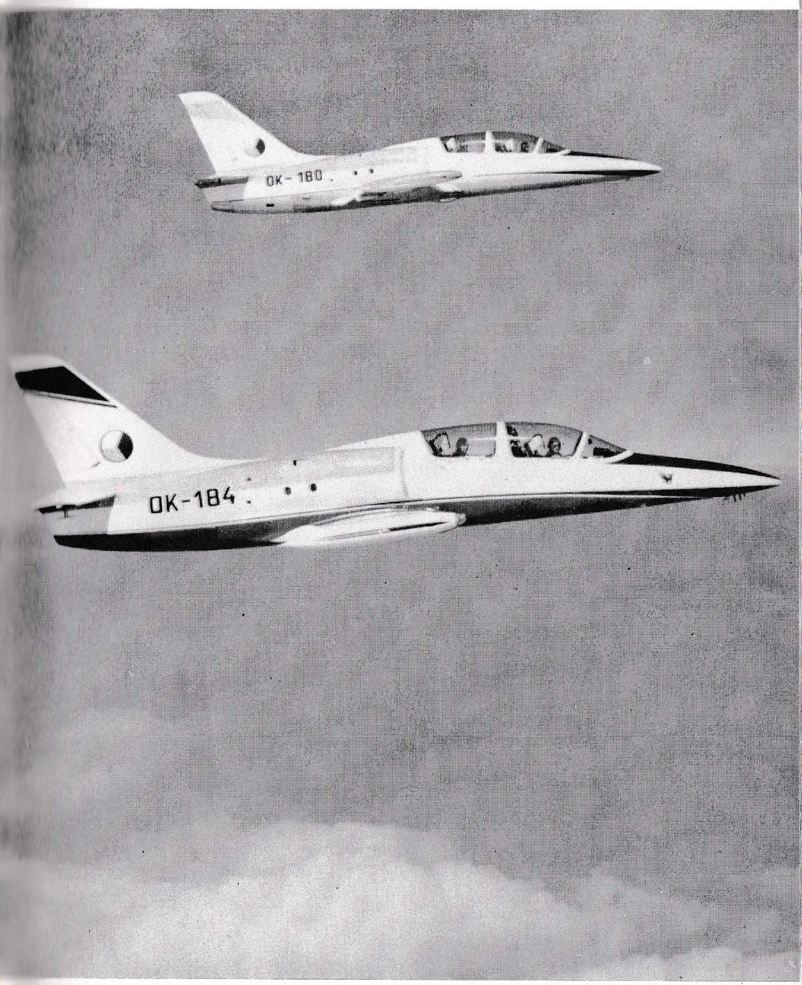
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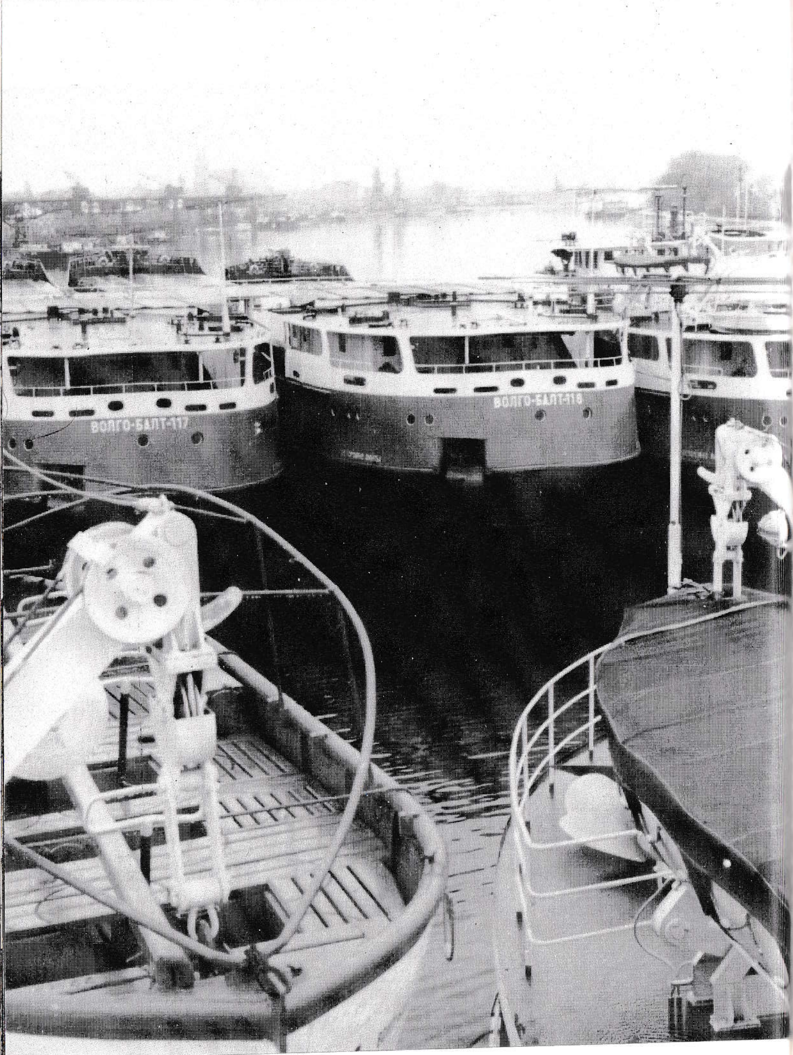
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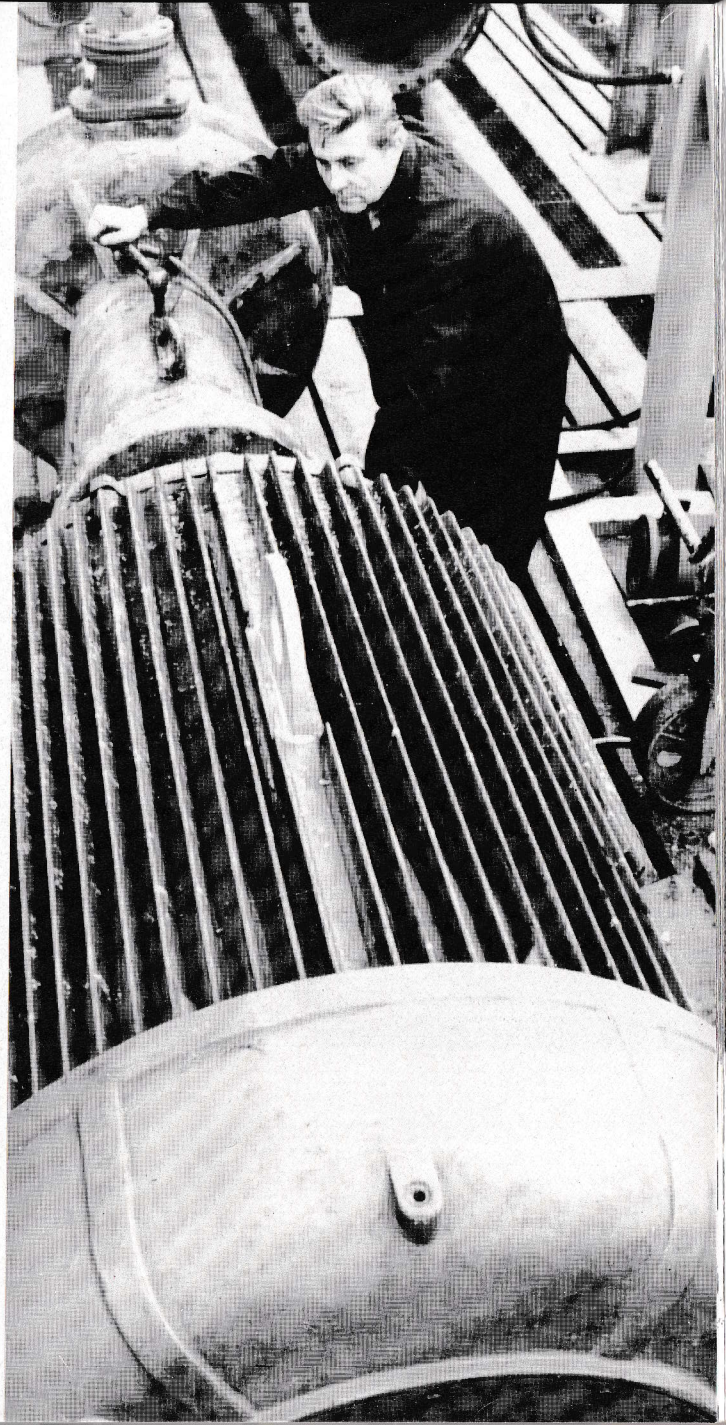

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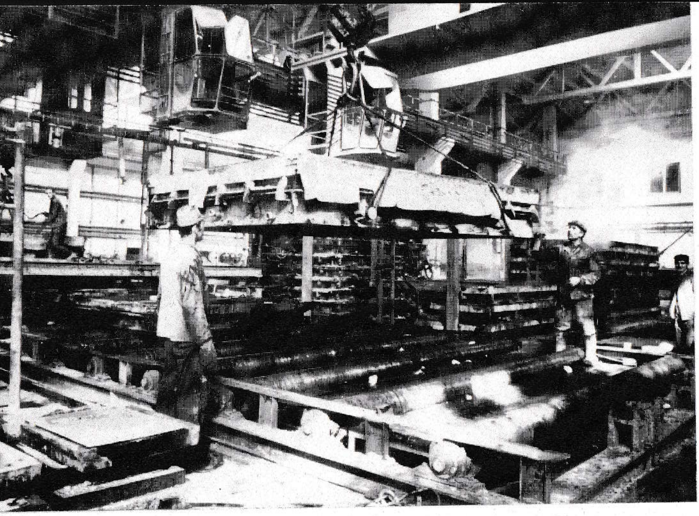

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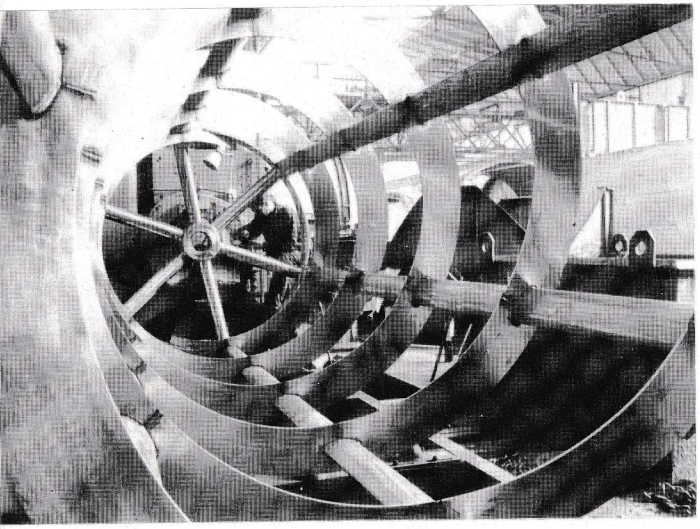

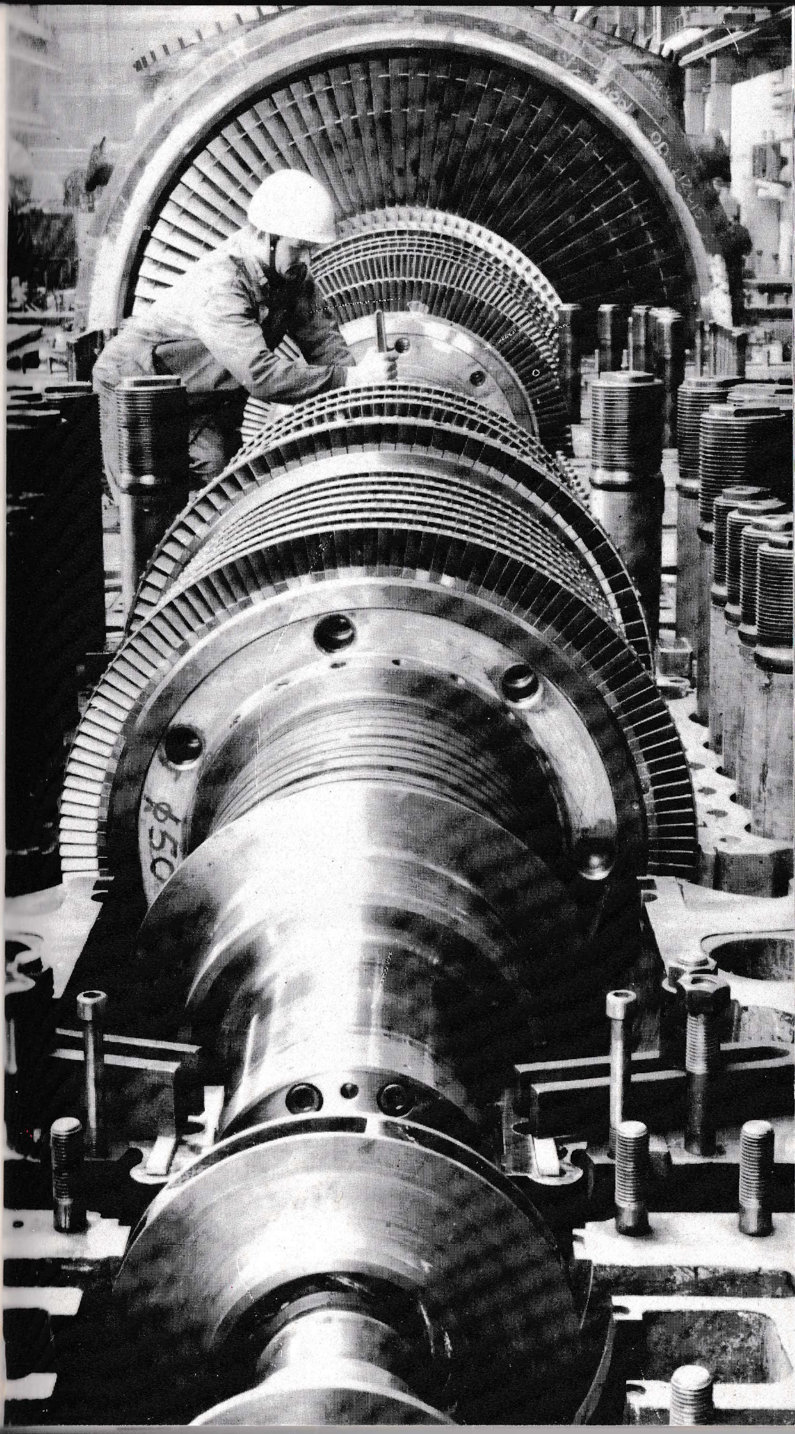

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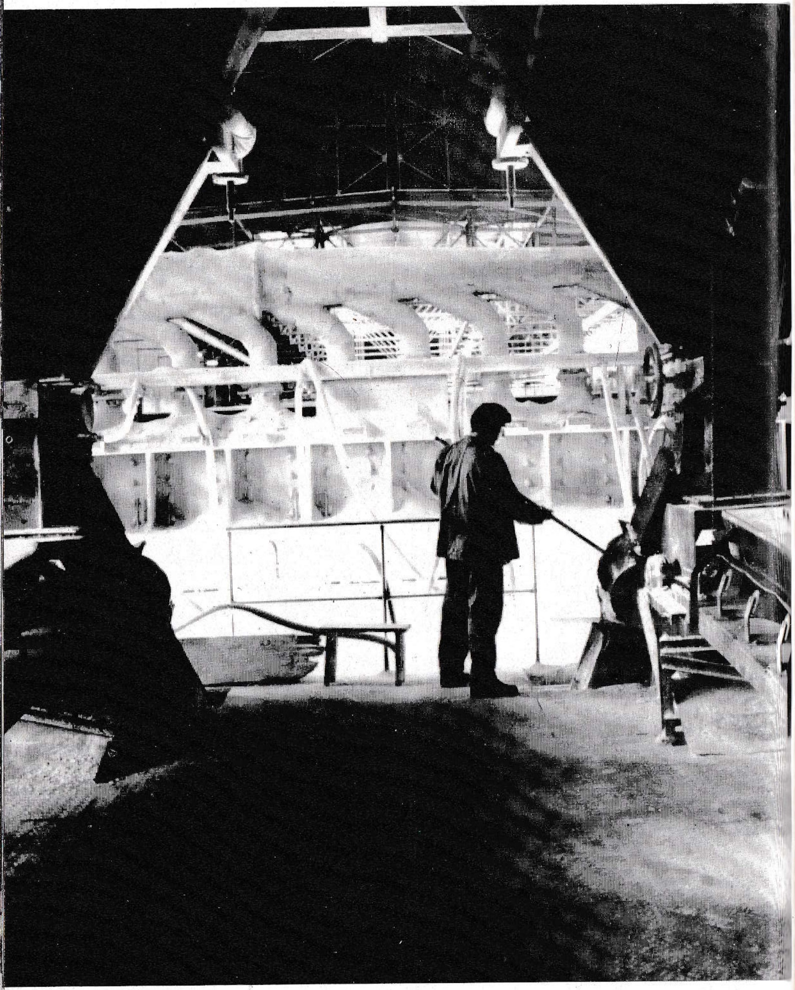

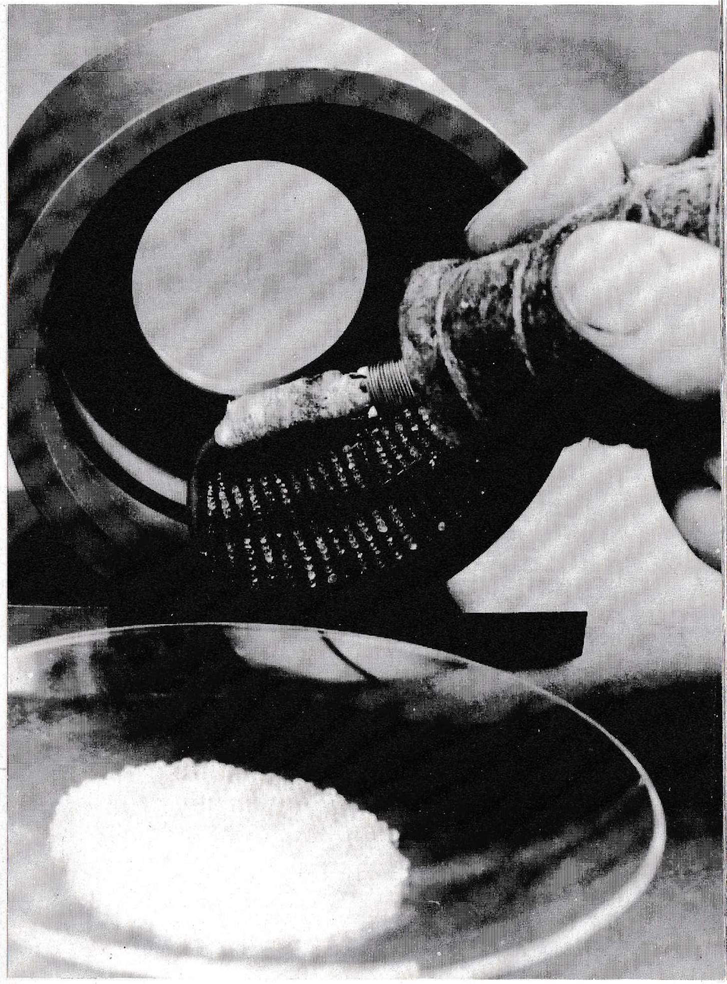

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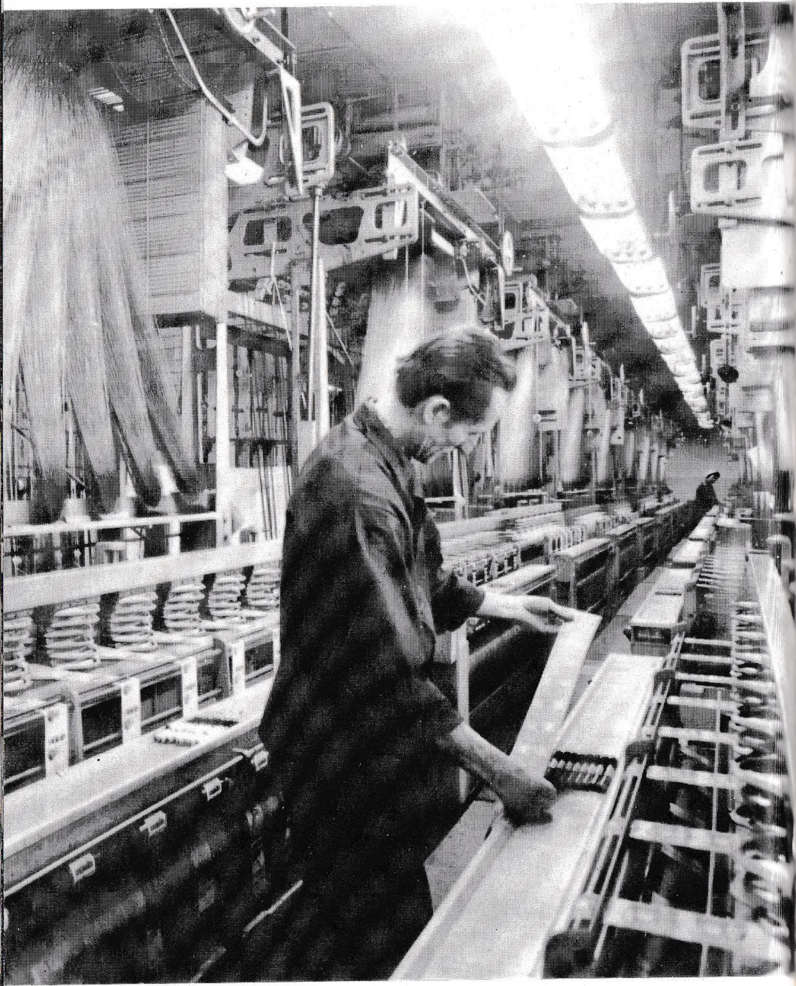

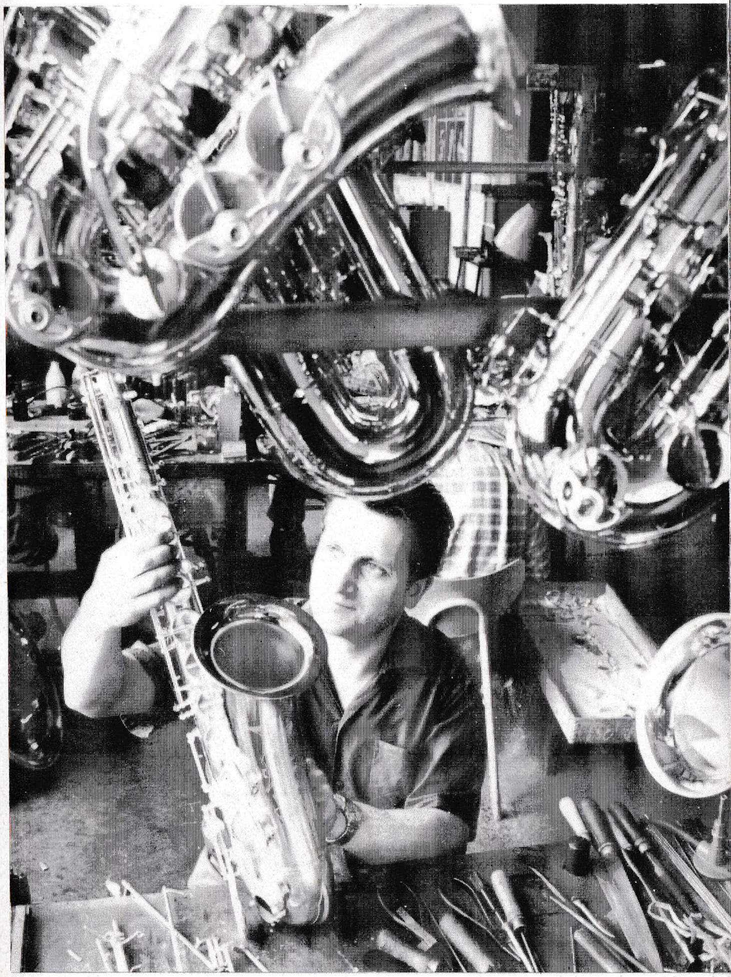

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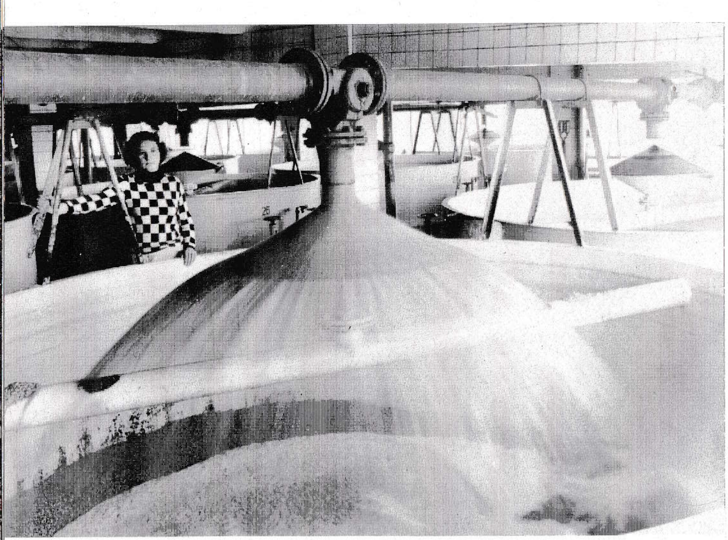

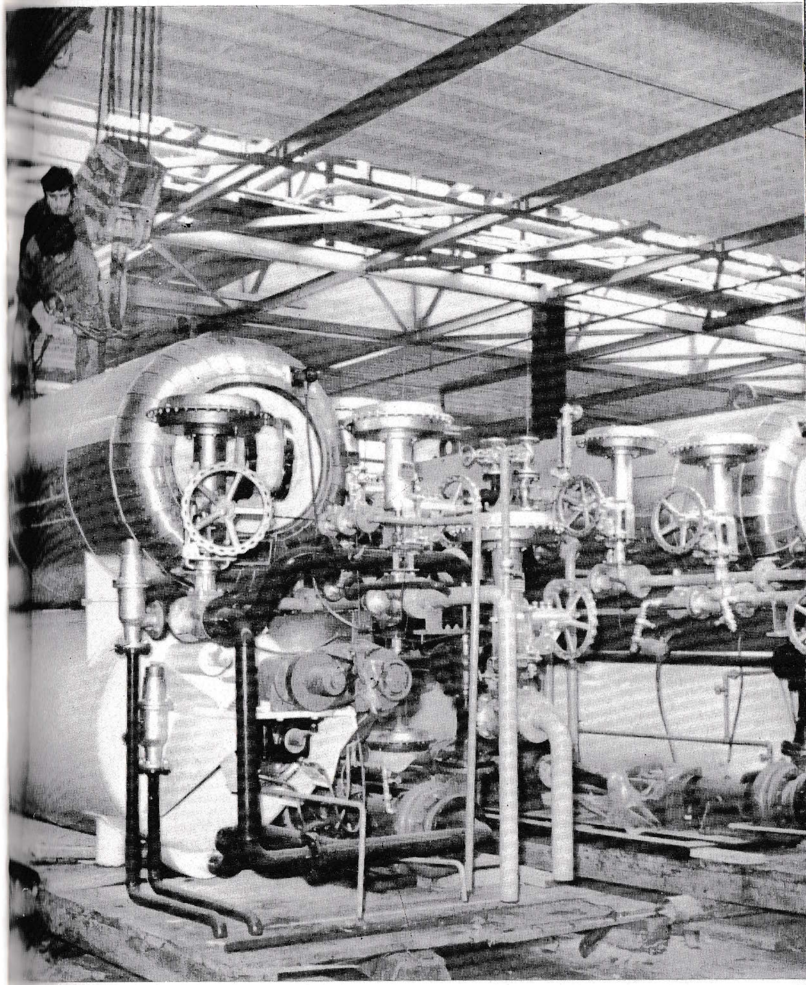

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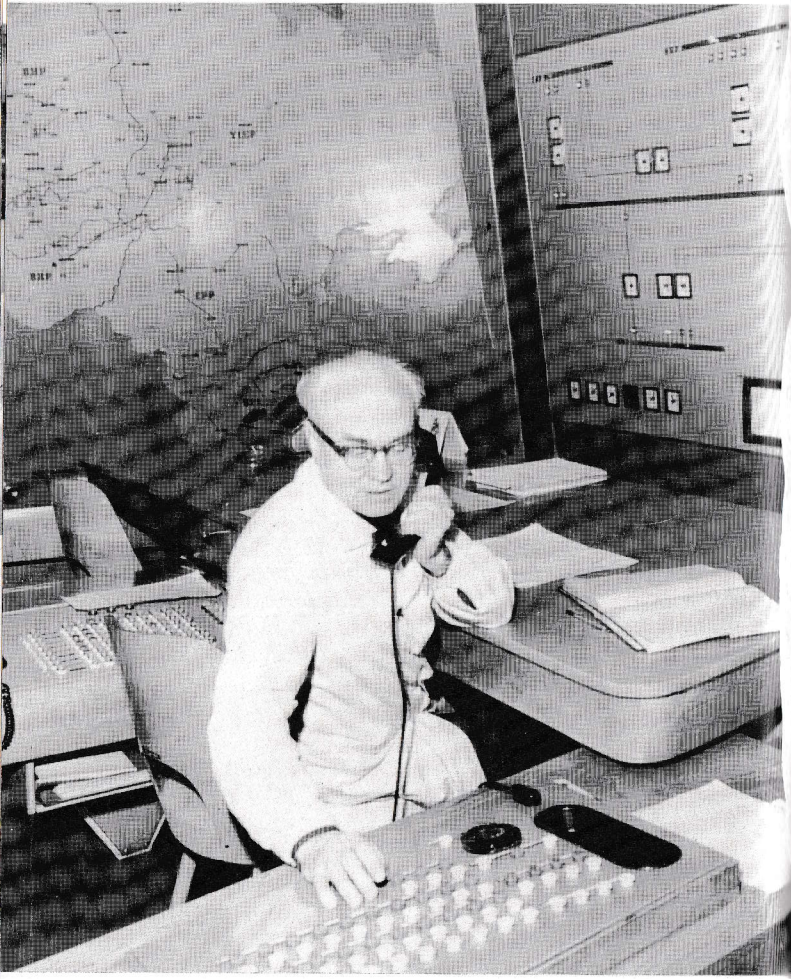
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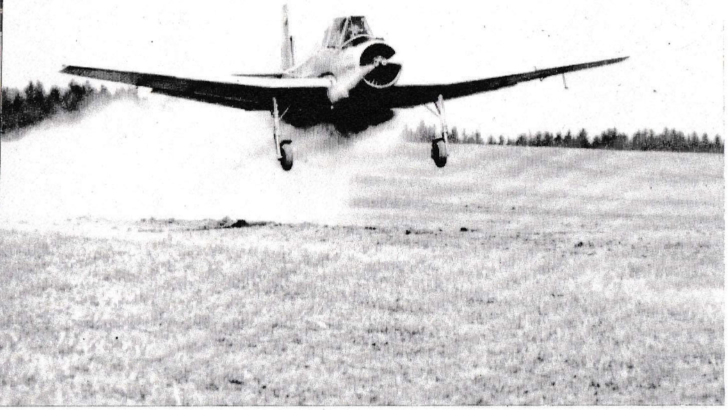

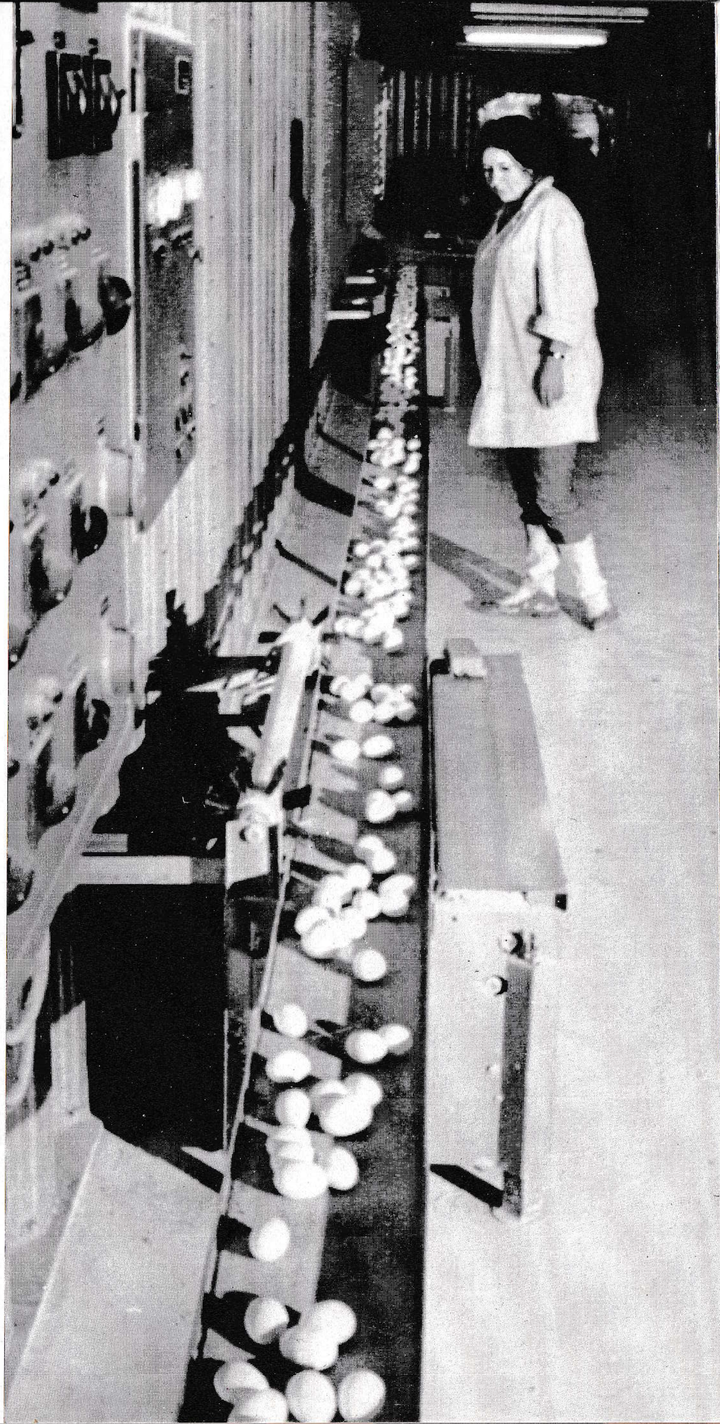

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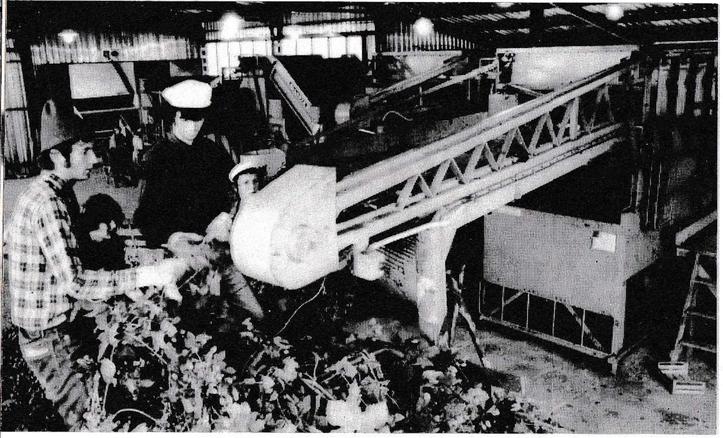

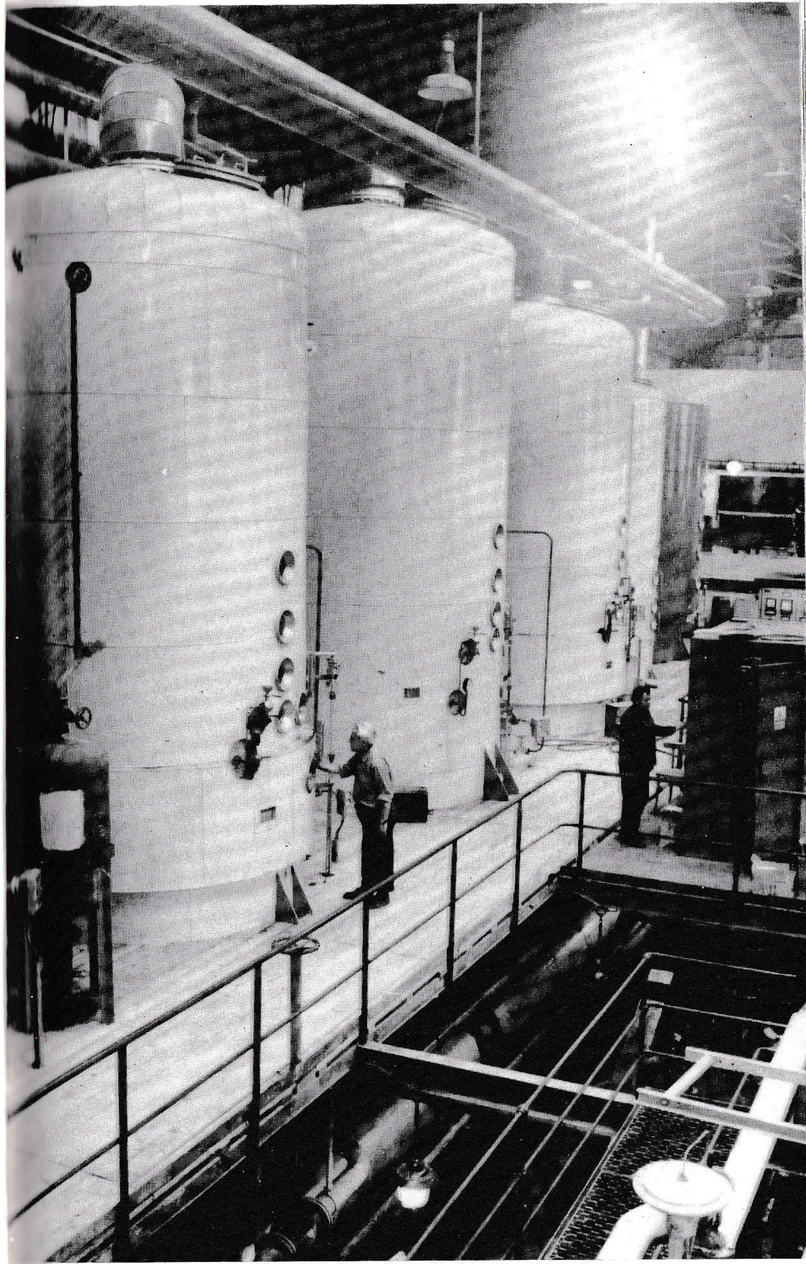

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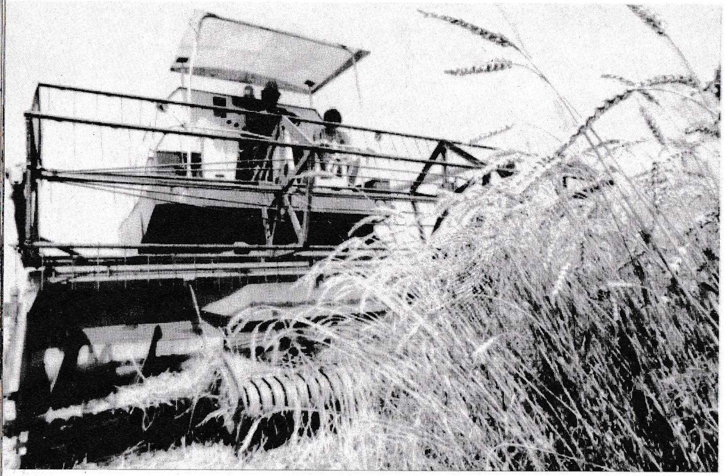

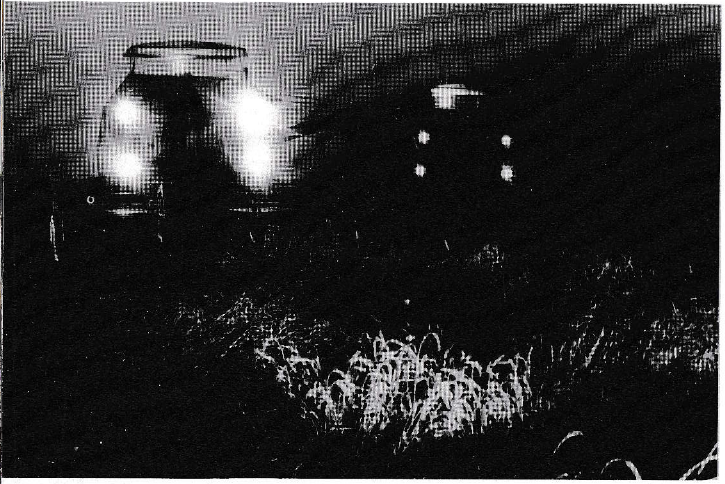

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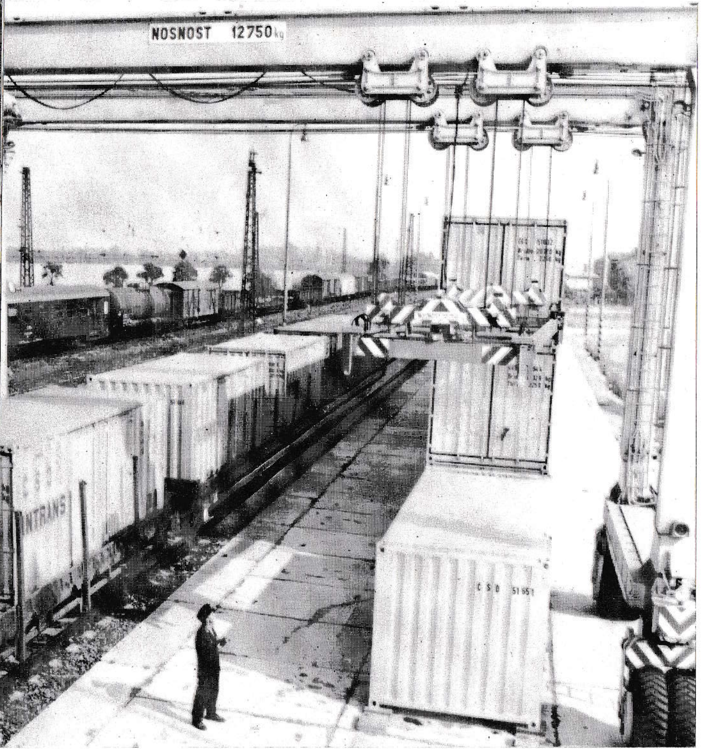
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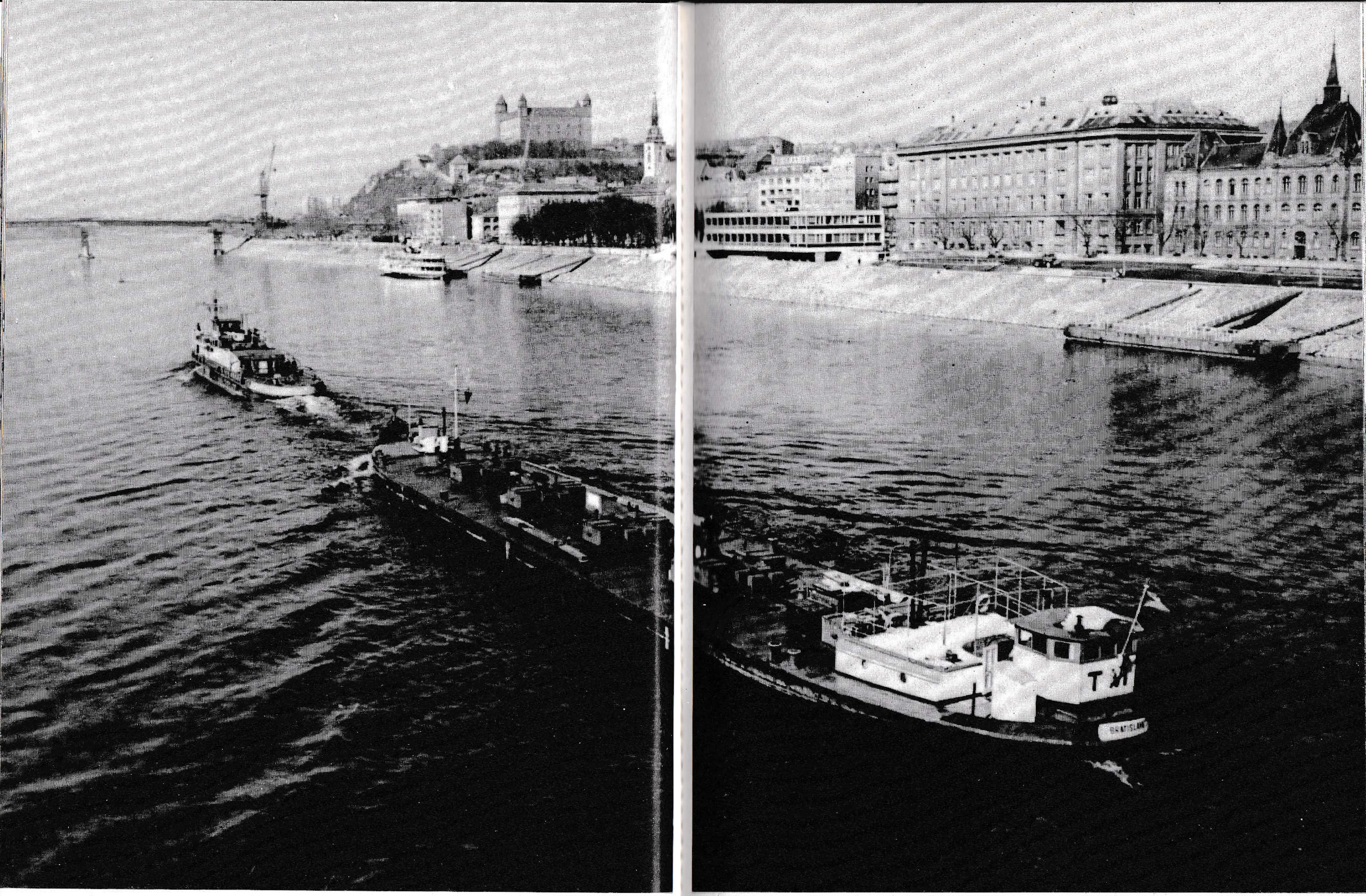
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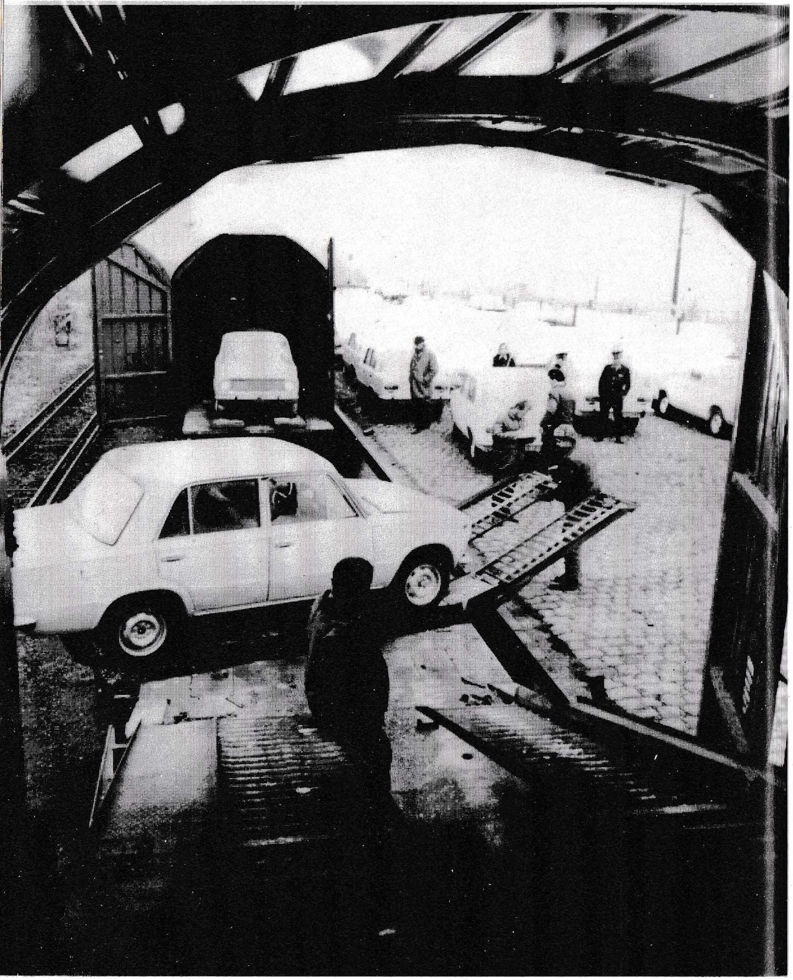

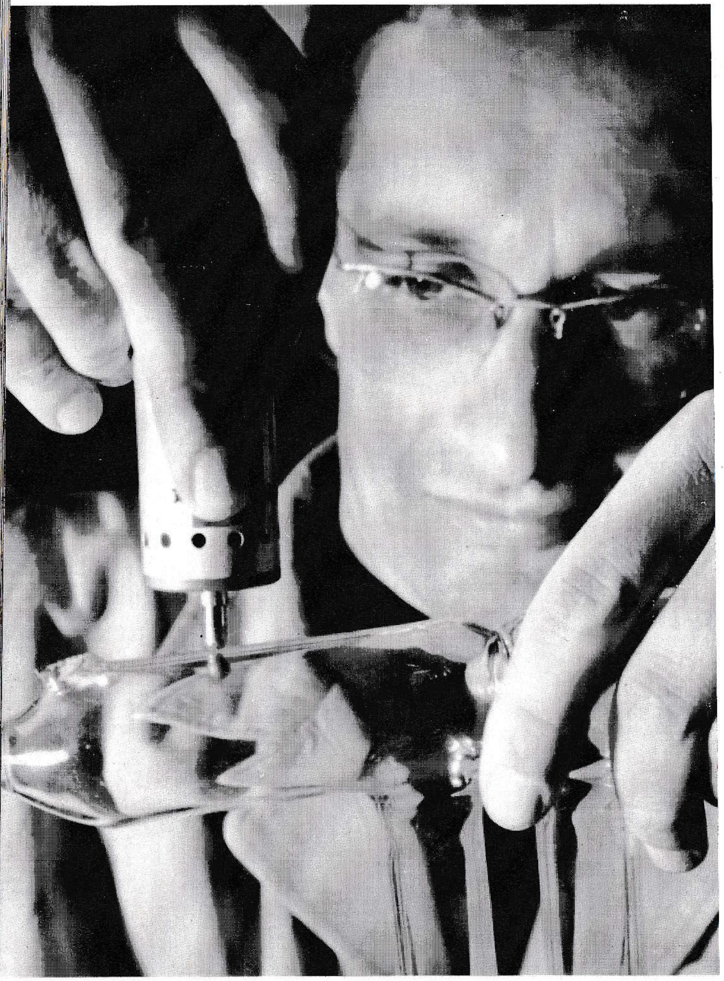

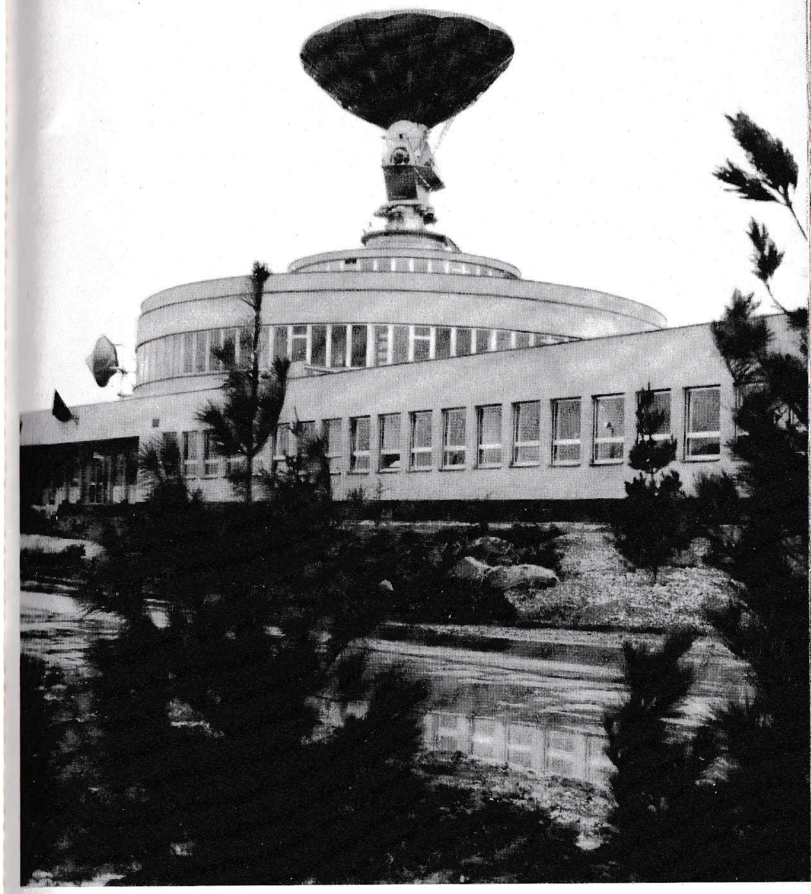

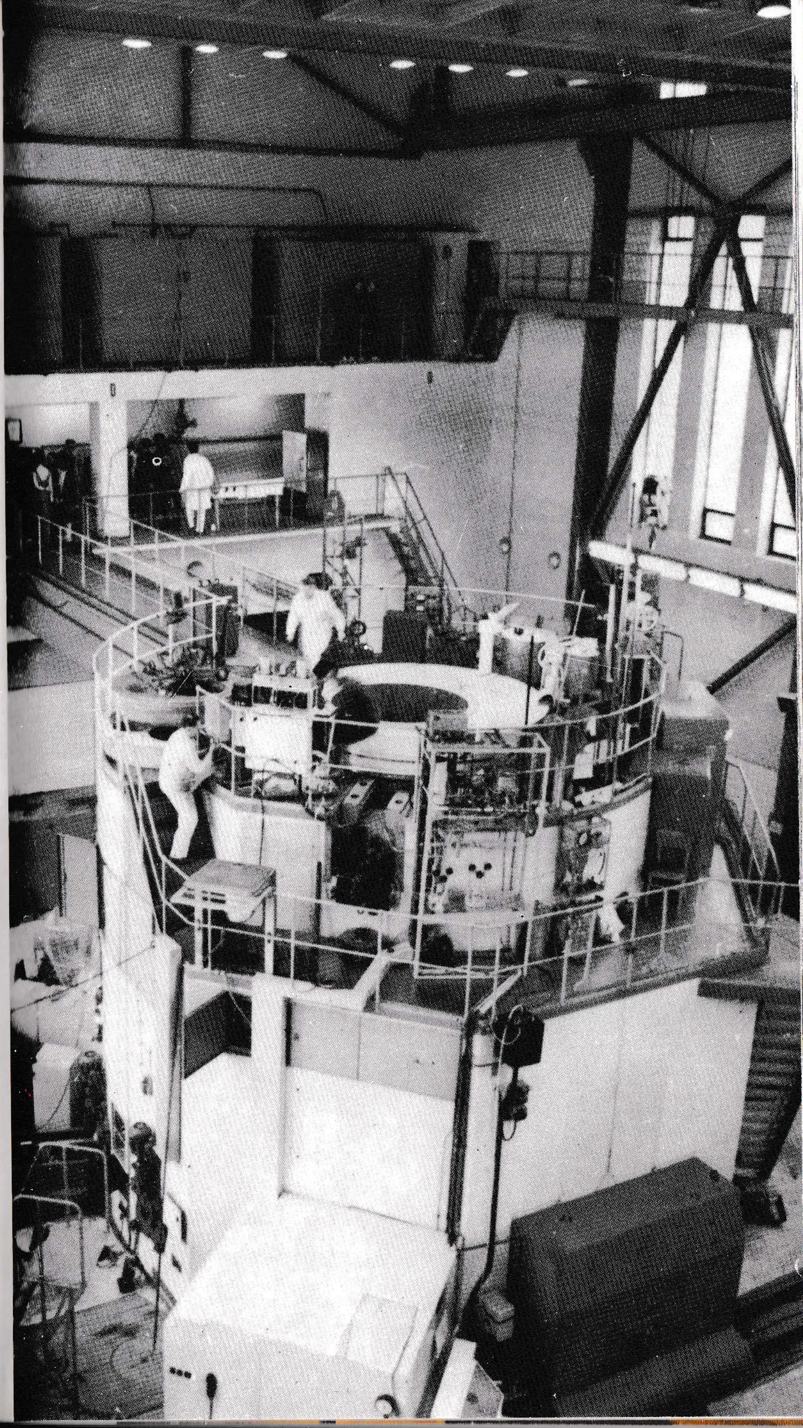

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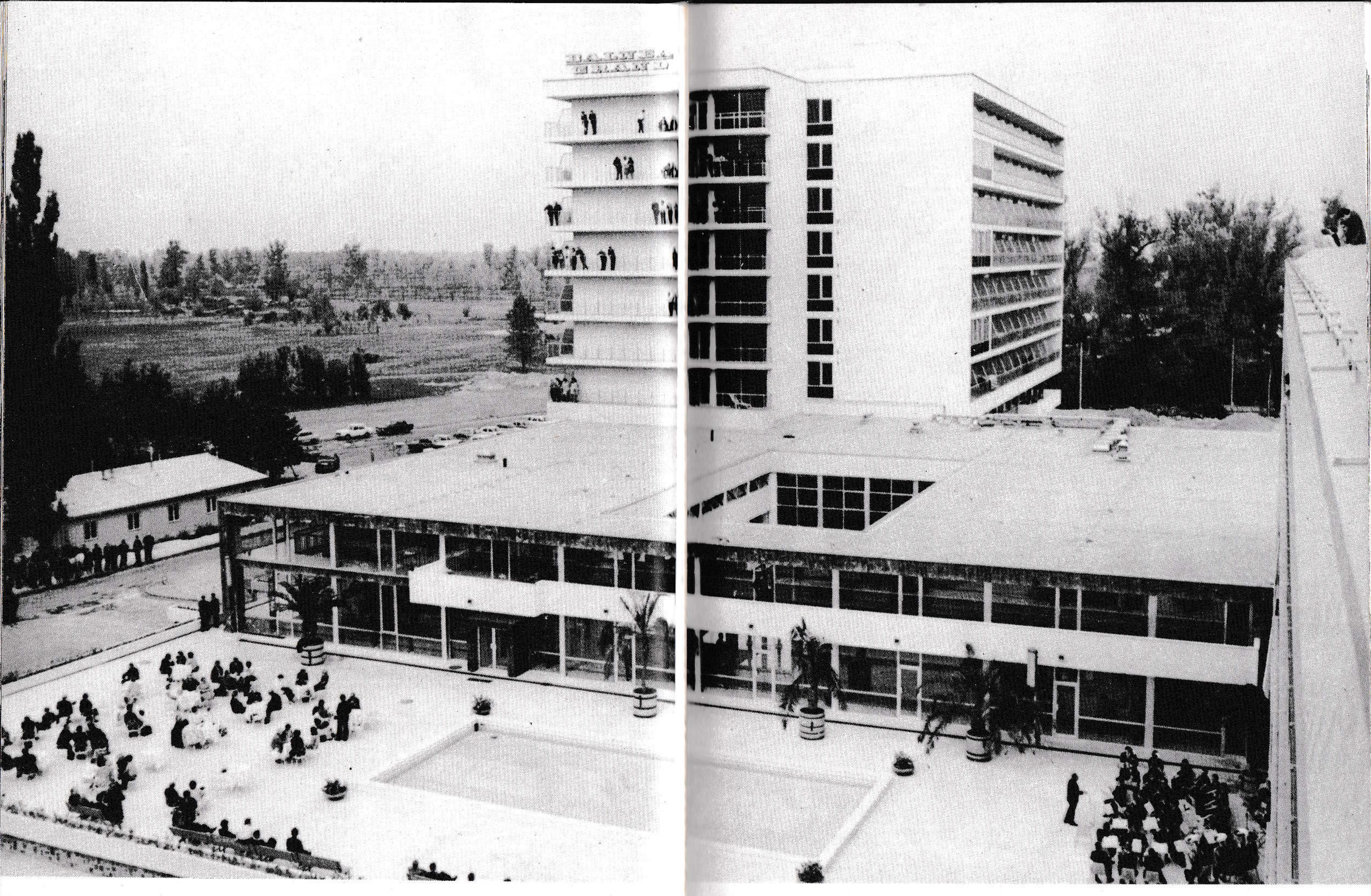

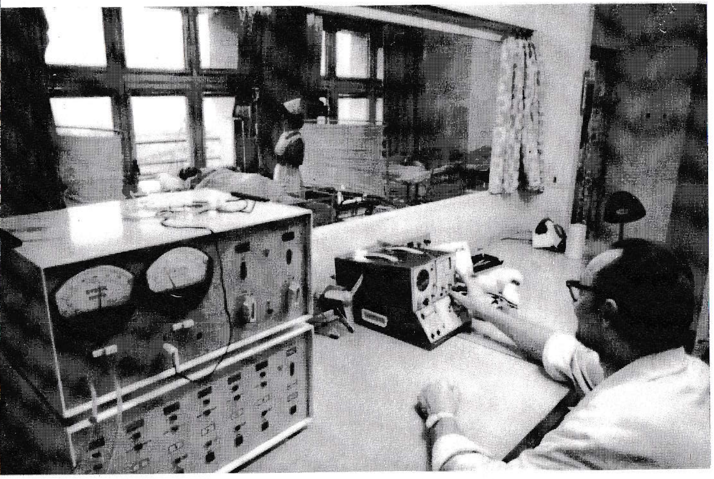

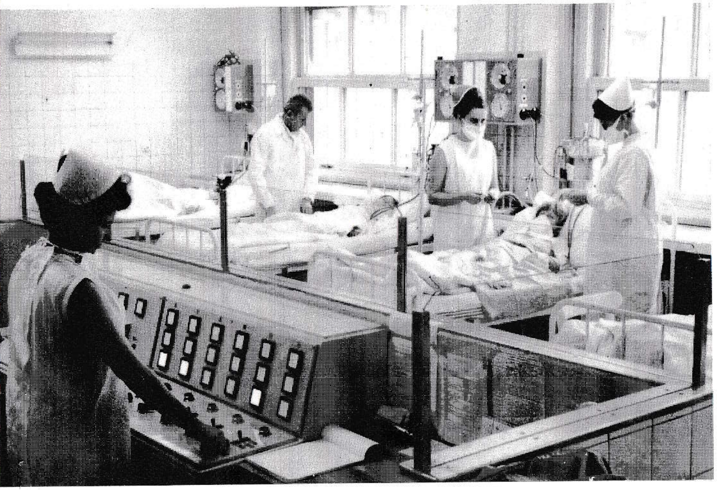

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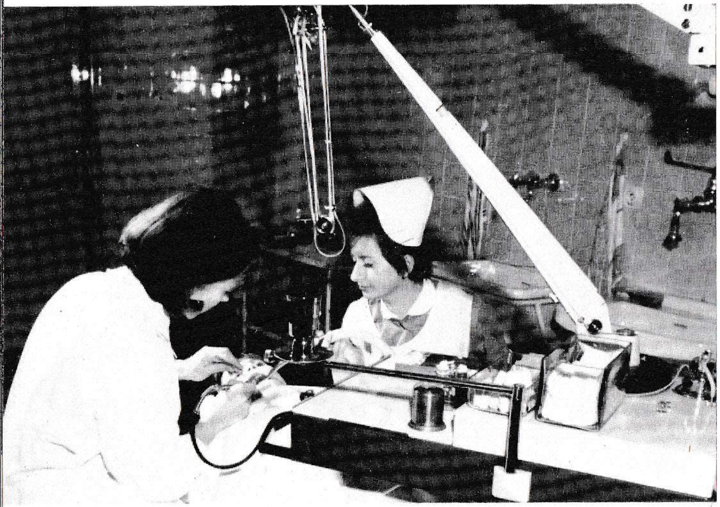

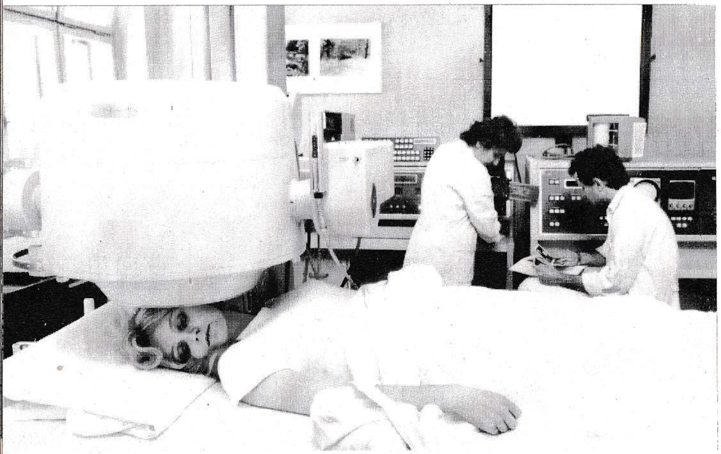

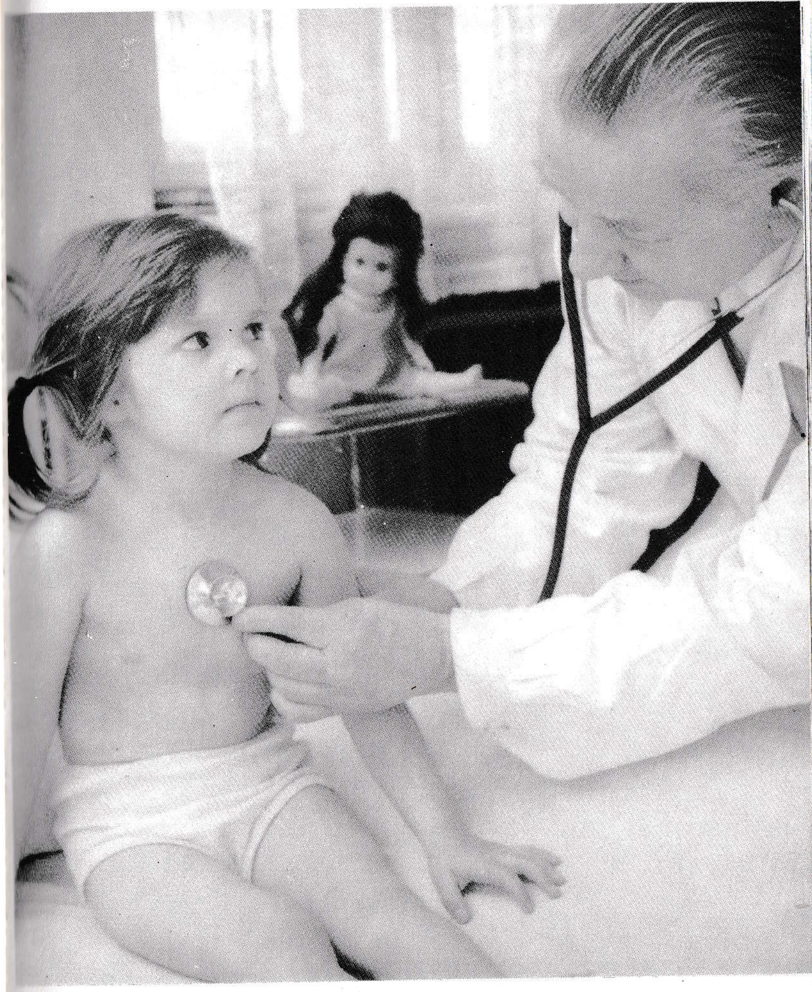

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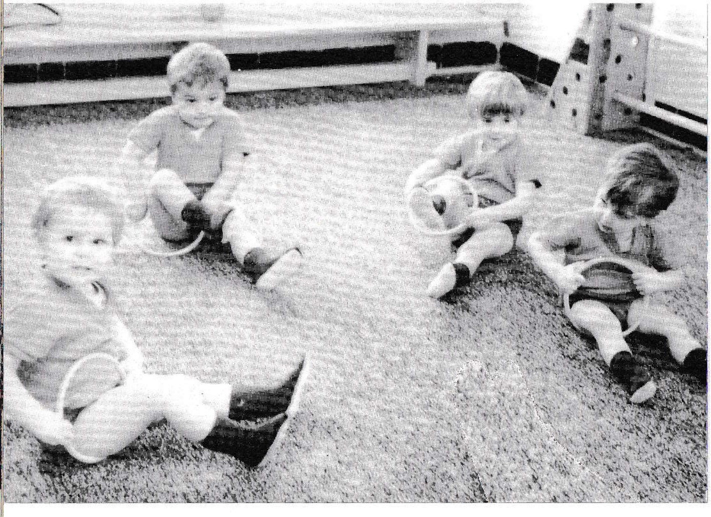

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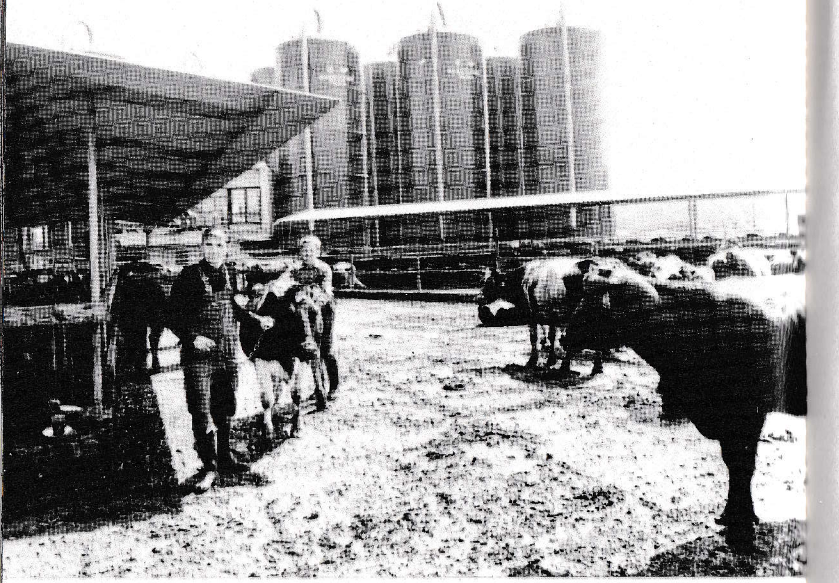

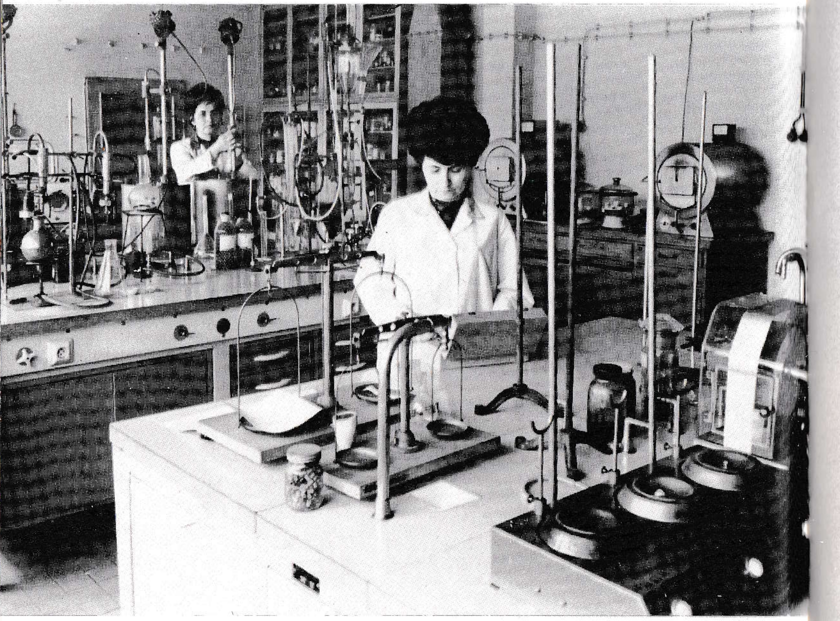

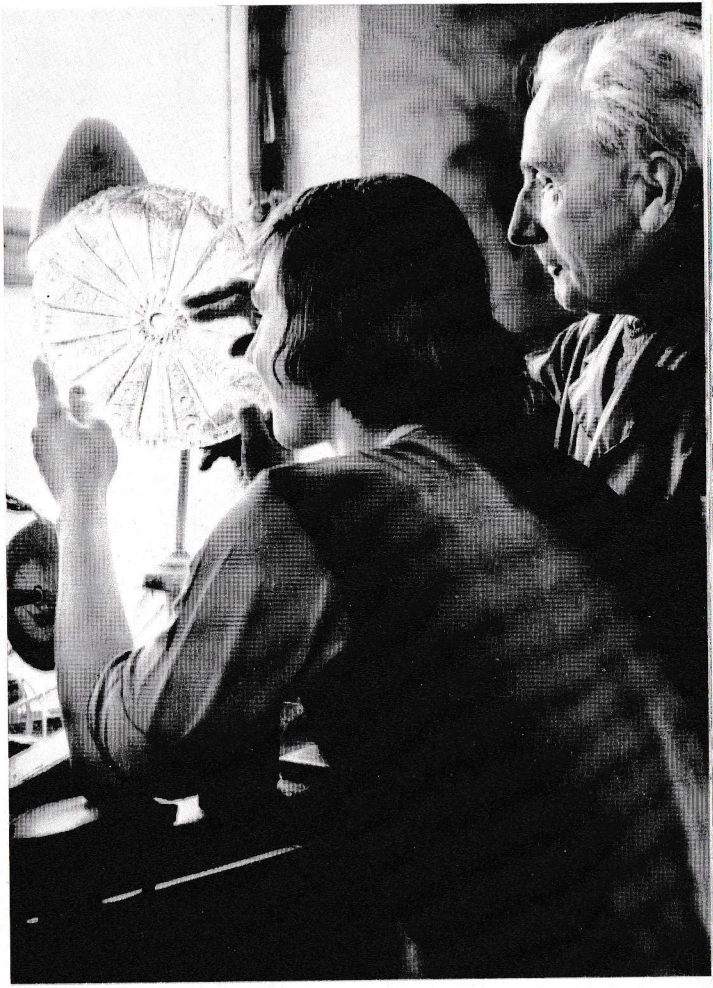

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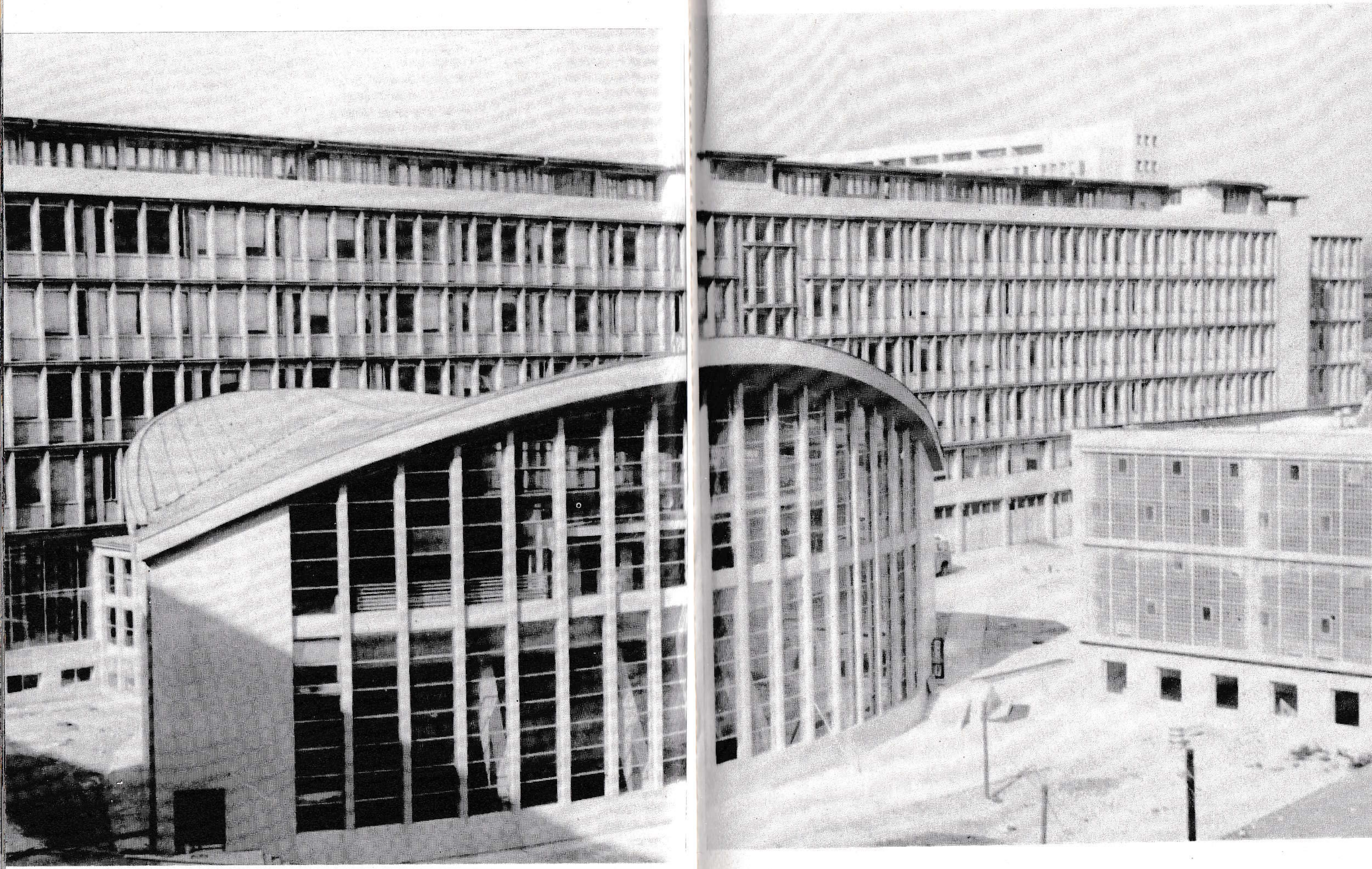

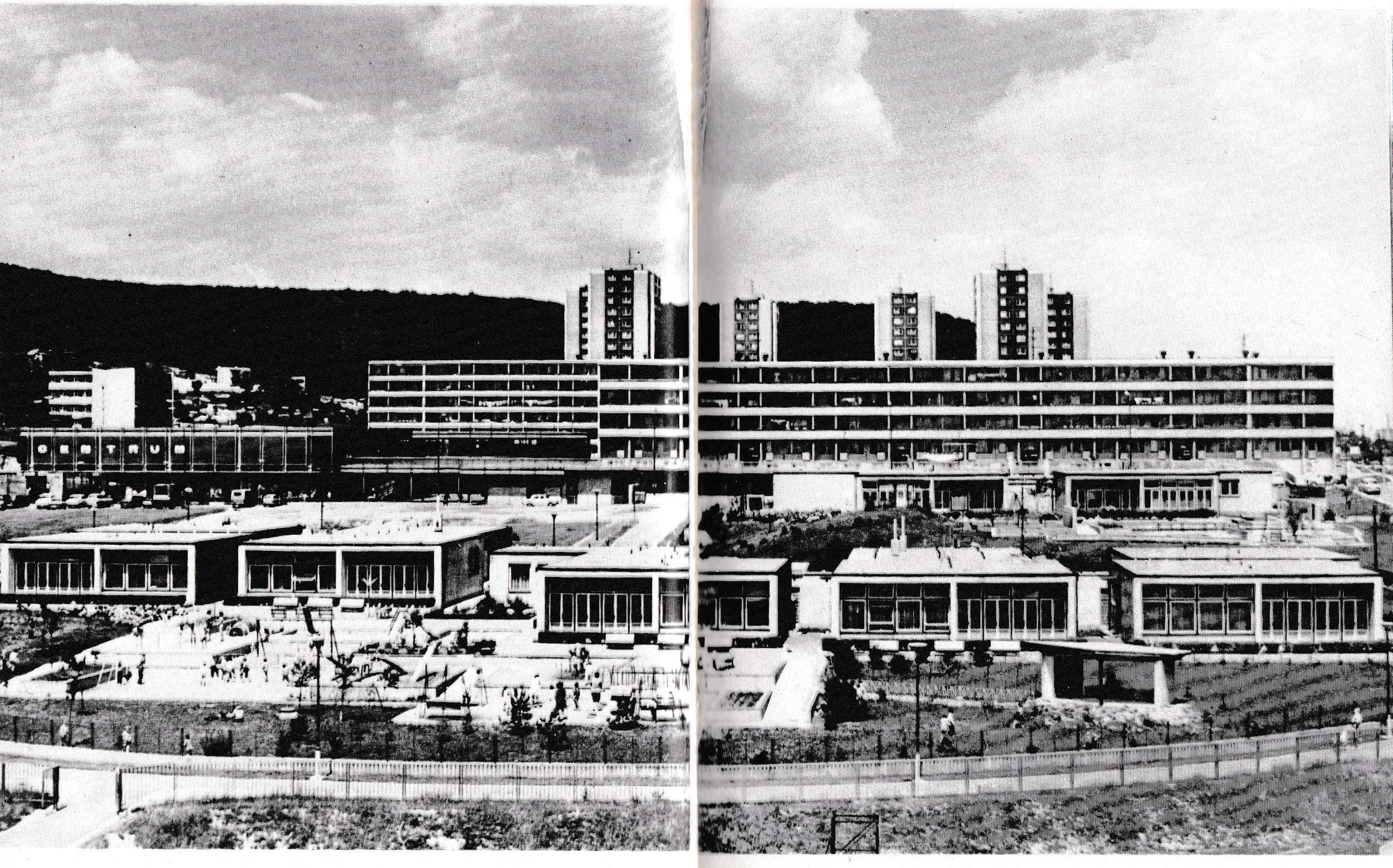
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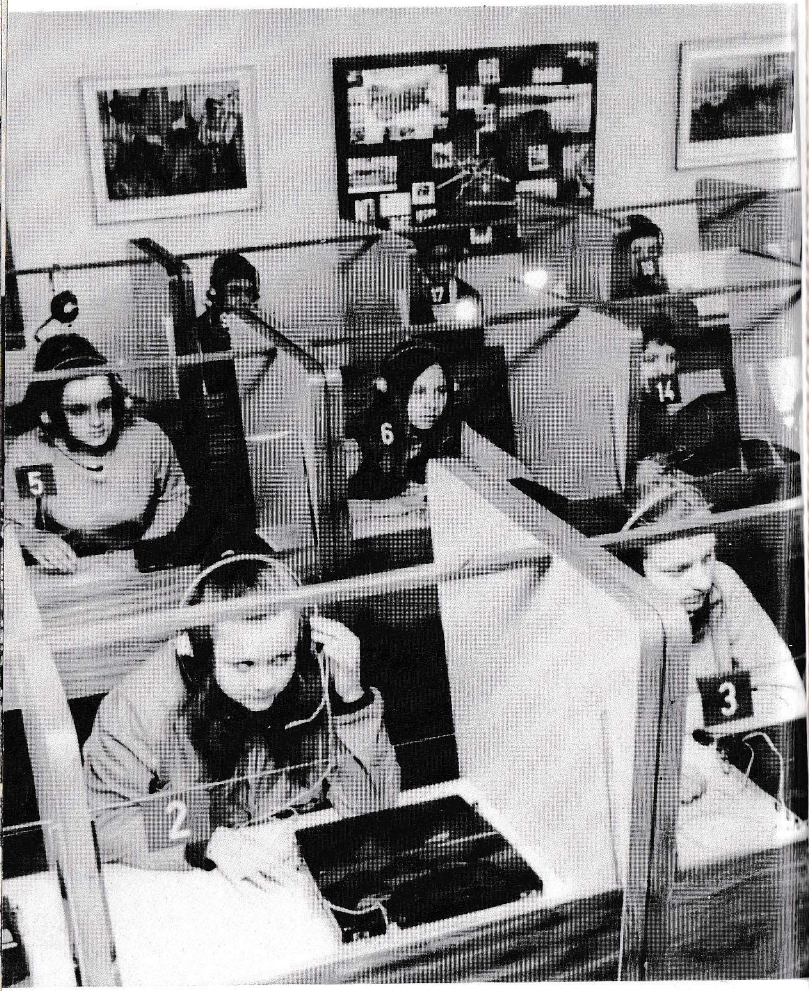
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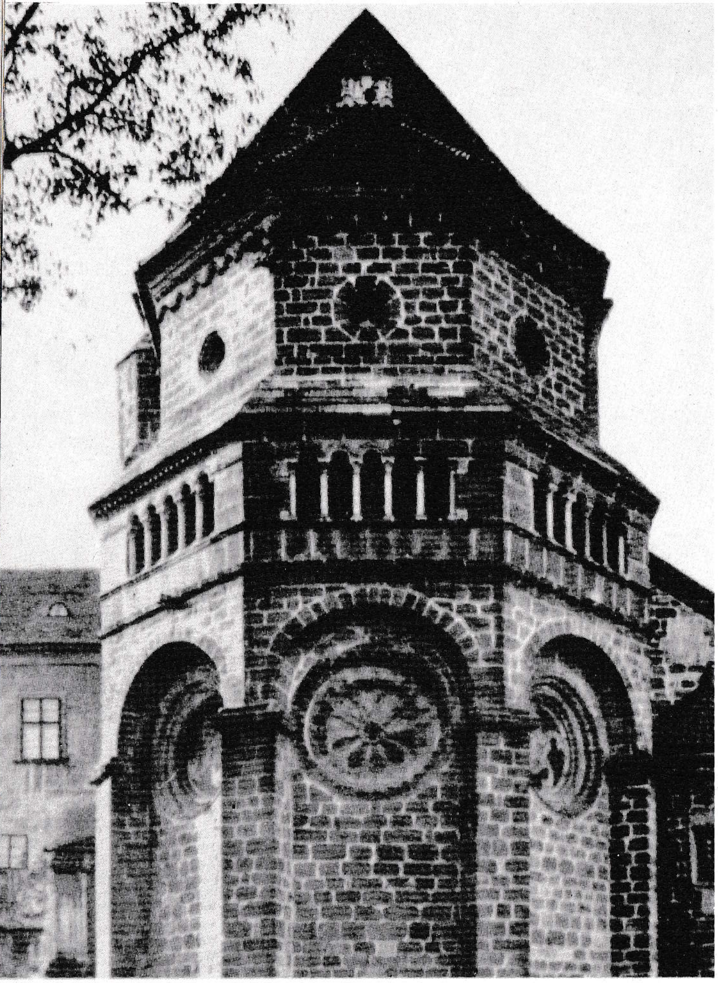

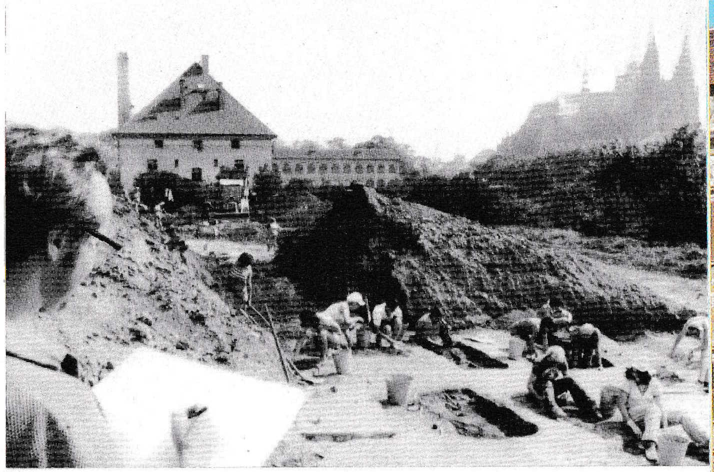

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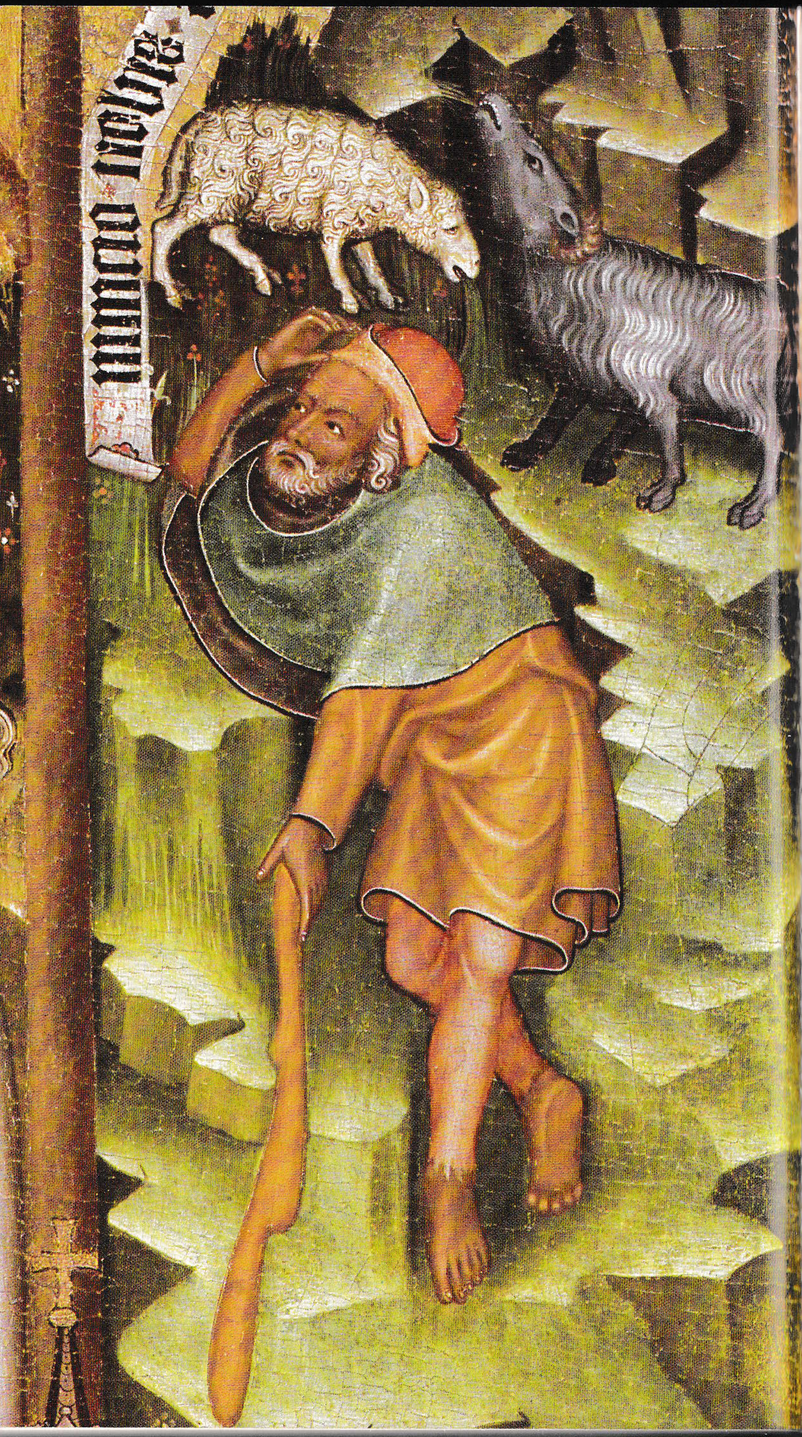

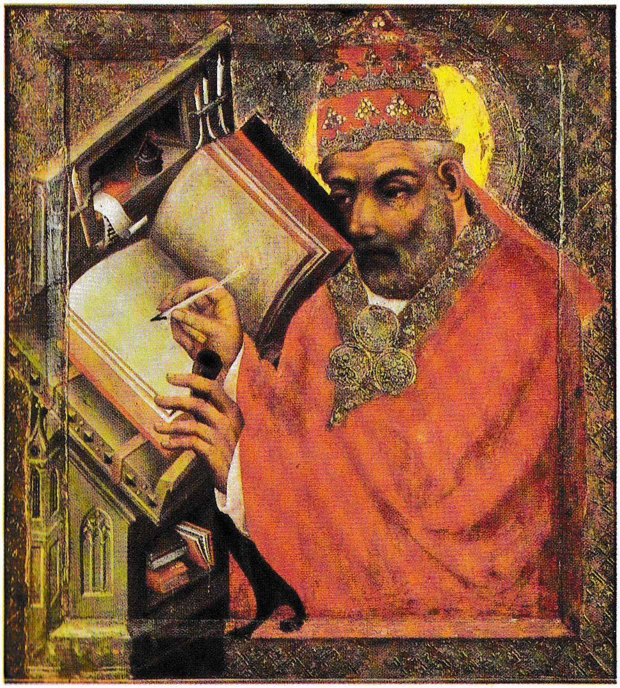

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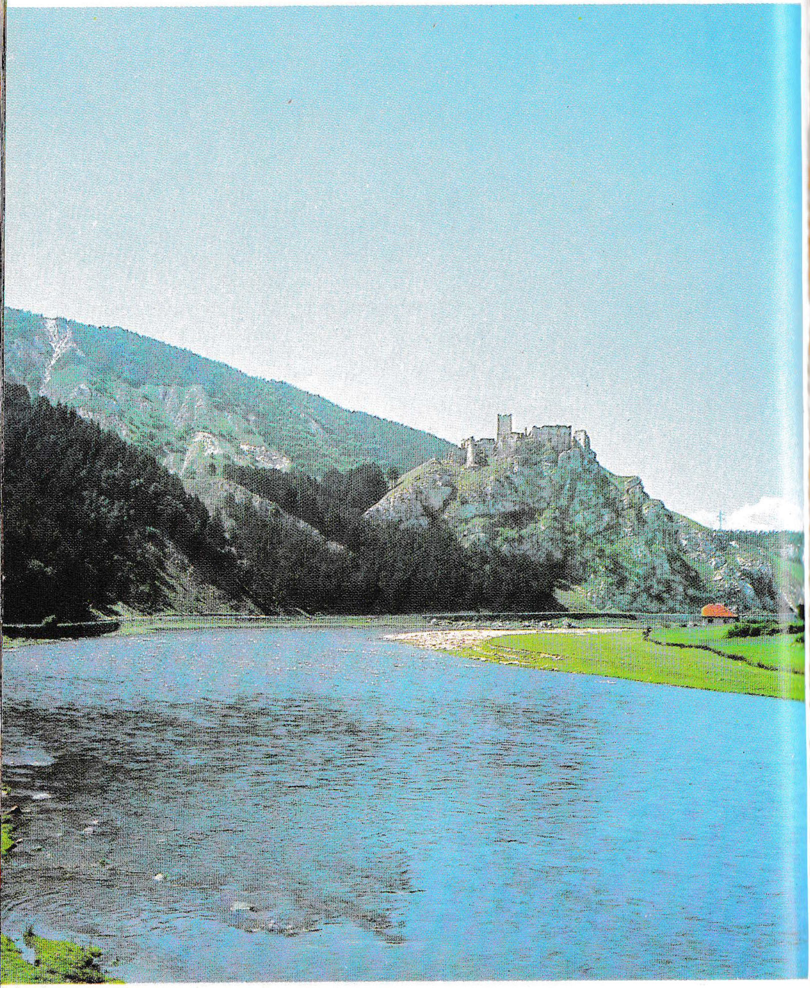

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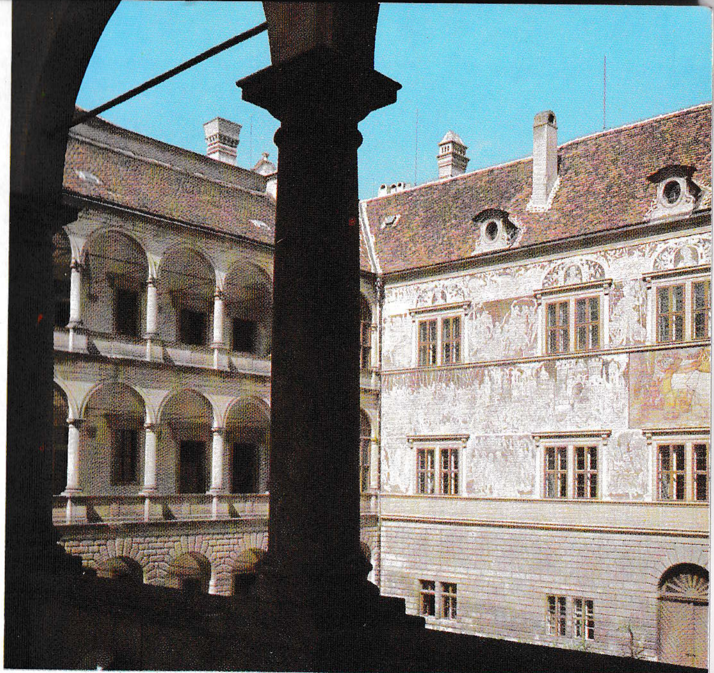

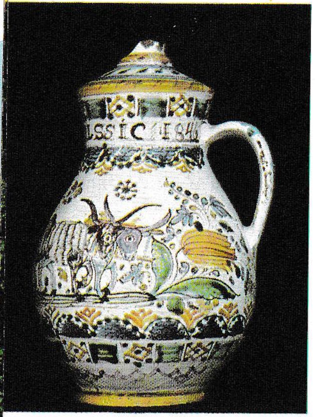

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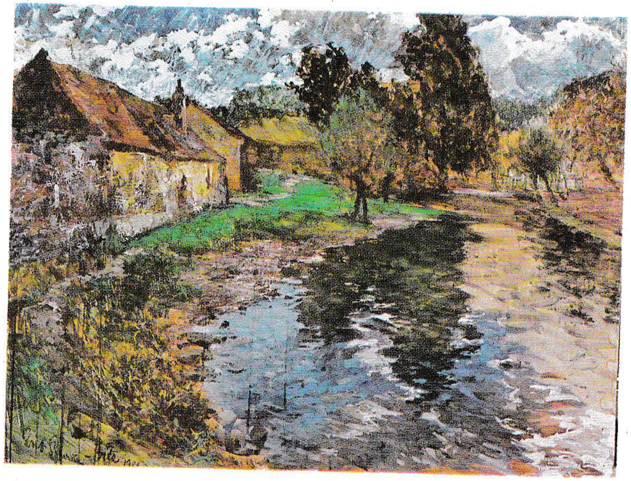

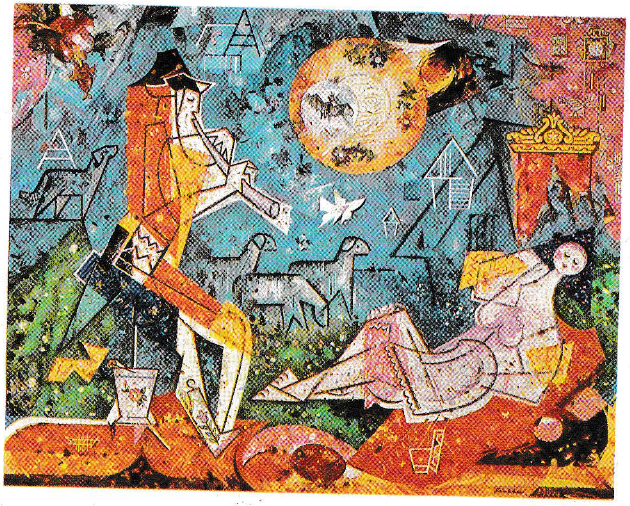

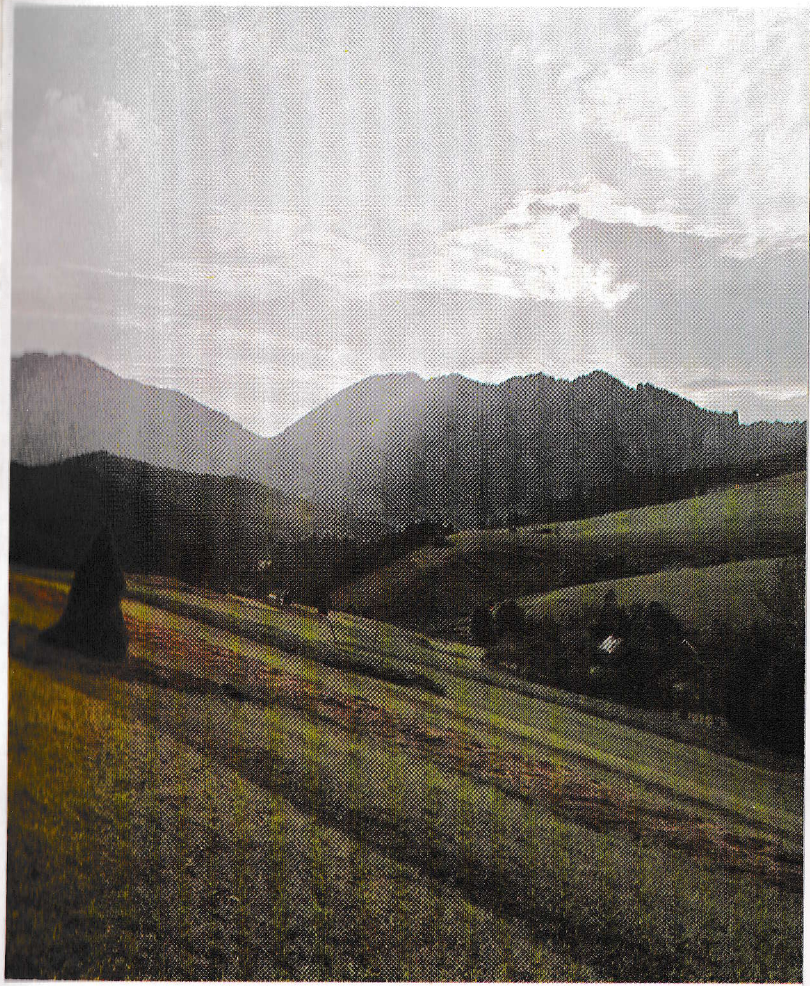

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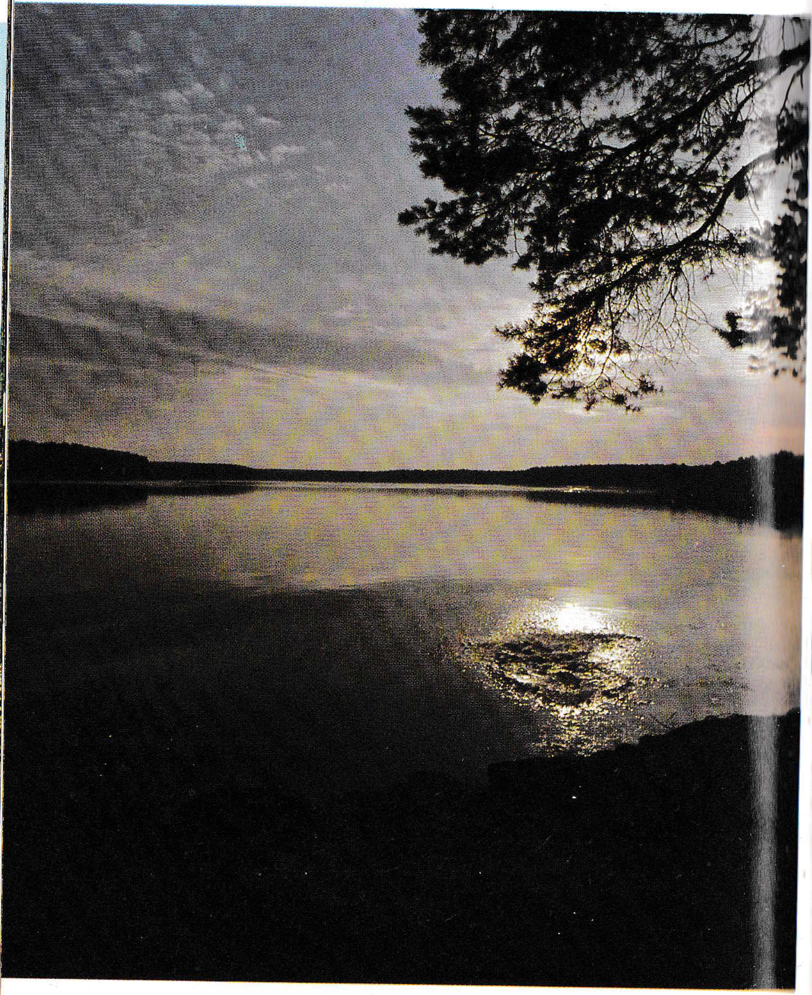

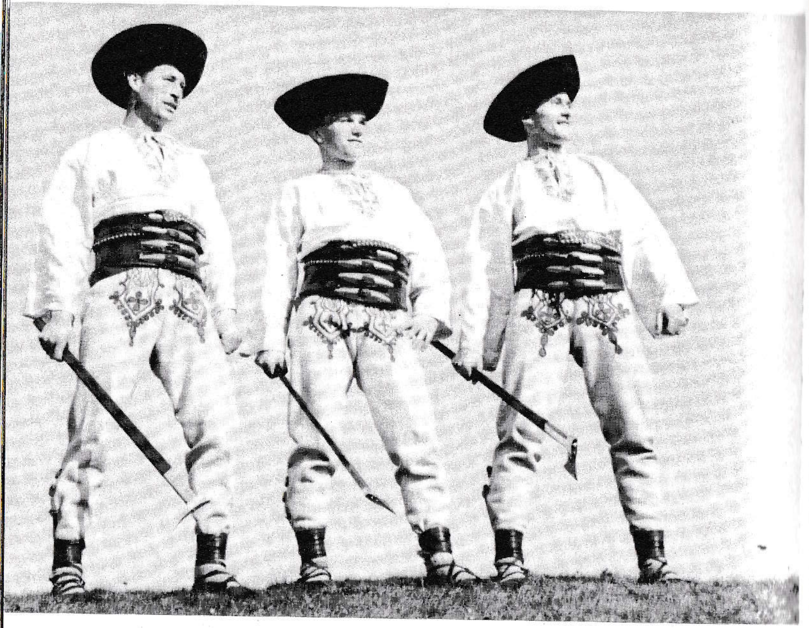

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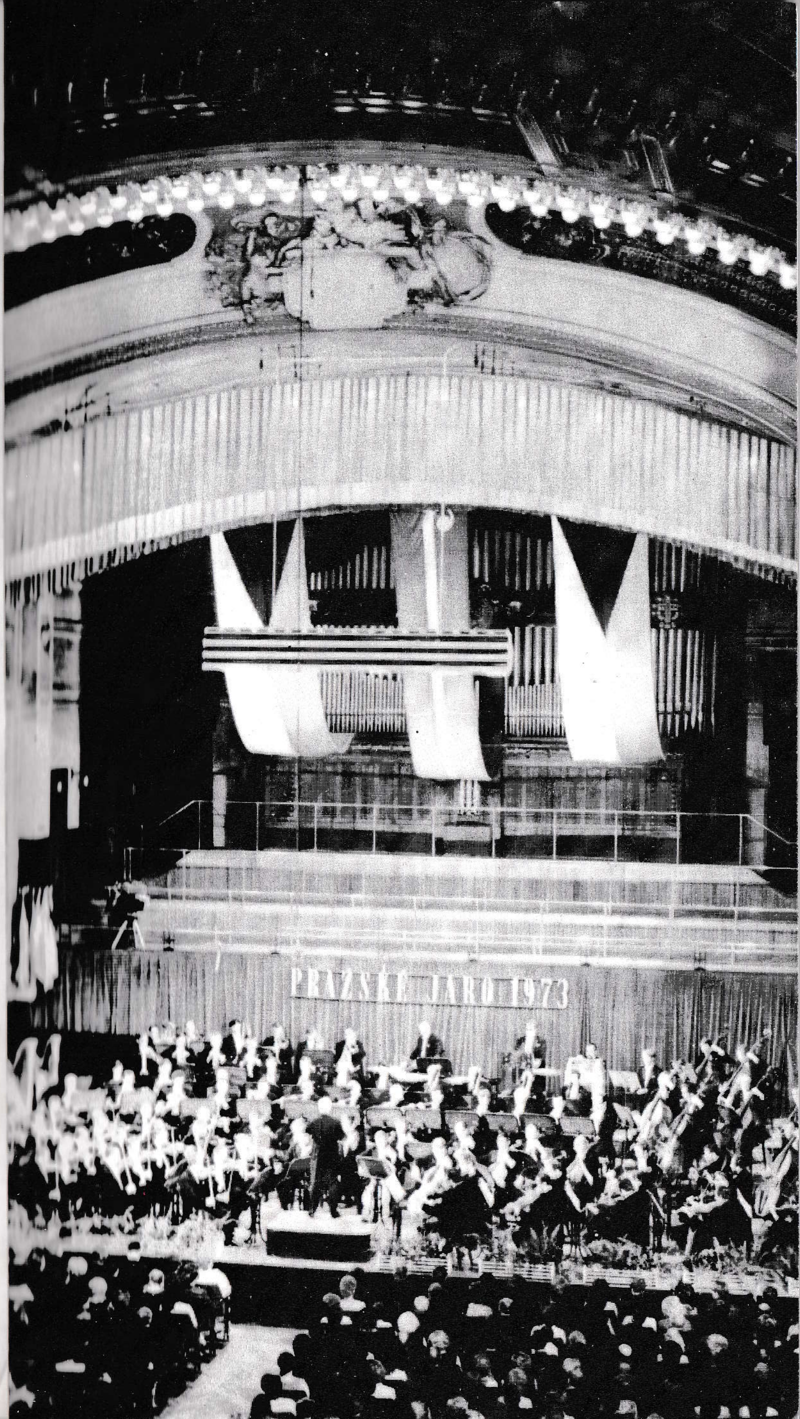
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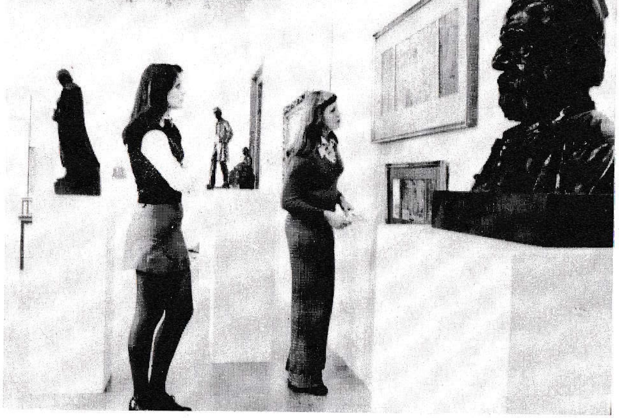

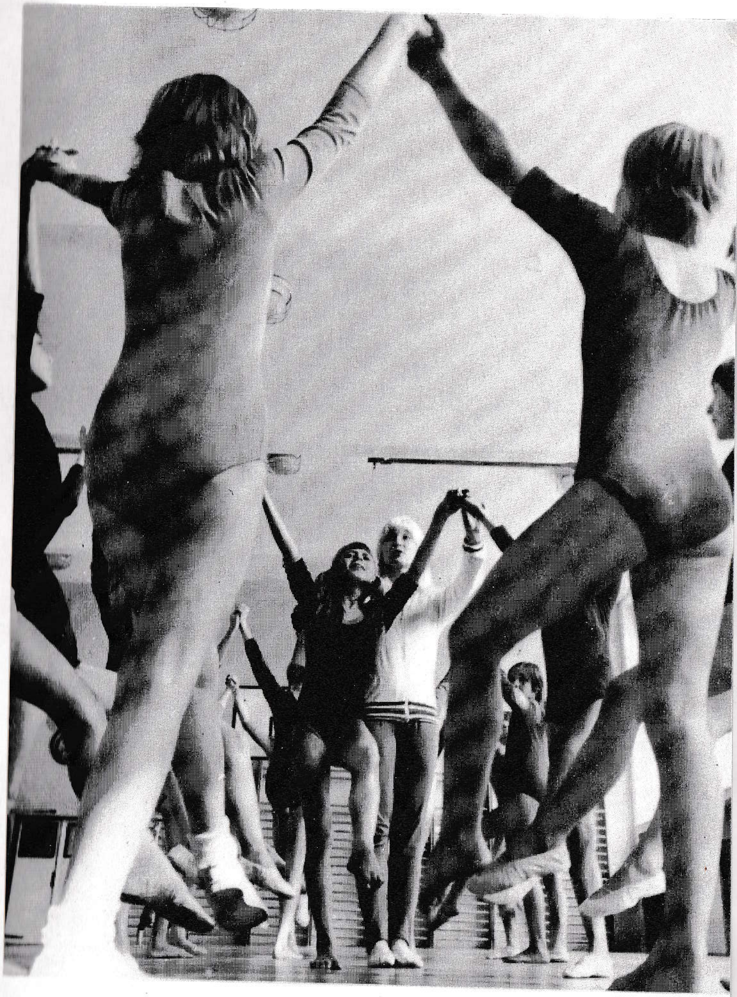

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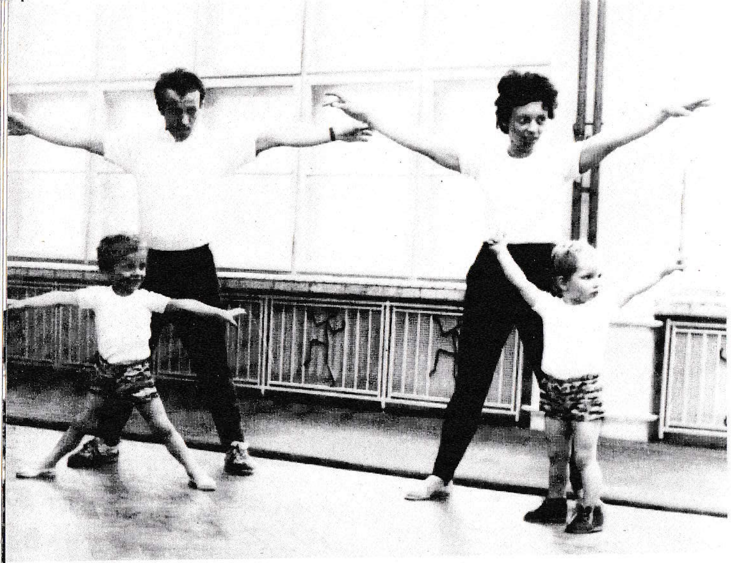

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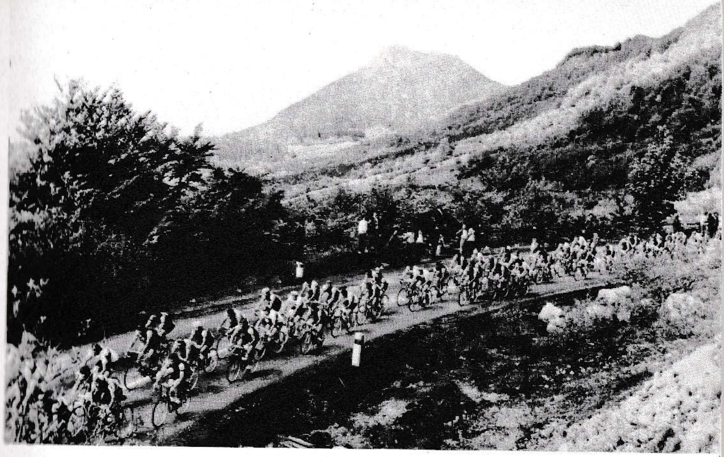

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